Judge grants in part Navy's, Defense's request to reverse order to compel. PAGE 5

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FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Torres submits \$258.1M budget

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ov. Ralph DLG Torres submitted to the Legislature over the weekend a proposed budget of \$258.1 million for Fiscal Year 2019,



which represents a 14.99-percent increase from the previous fiscal year.

marks of \$42.7 million to the Public School System, which is more than 25 percent of constitutionally mandated funding for PSS; and \$5.5 million to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to finally compensate for indigent care and the care of prisonersmarking the first time in years that both were included in the proposed budget.

"I submitted a budget that builds upon the progress of the

Fiscal Year 2019 Budgetary Resources: \$258.1 million \$258,137,107 An increase of \$21.4 million \$236,770,472 FY 2019 FY 2018 Source: Department of Finance and the Office of Management and Budget Graphic: Staff, Saipan Tribune

last couple of years. My budget makes critical investments in key areas, while ensuring that

See TORRES on Page 4





larine debris is a threat to CI

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

Marine debris has become a threat to the CNMI's overmonwealth and its beaches Guerrero, it is common to their home

According to the Microne-

all beauty and the animals sian Islands Nature Alliance that have made the Com- executive director Roberta find lifeless animals by the shores of beaches like Old

Man by the Sea and Marine Beach. These animals usually die of the same cause, marine debris consumption.

Unfortunately, marine debris has become an epidemic

See MARINE on Page 4

Man killed in vehicular hit-and-run

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie delatorre@saipantribune.com

A 38-year-old man was struck and killed during a hit-and-run incident involving a sports utility vehicle at the interfound

Arnold Road and As Mahetog near the Saipan Ice and Water Co. Sunday night.

section of Chalan Pale

The victim, a local Chinese, sustained several injuries and was pronounced dead by an attending physician at the

Commonwealth Health Center at 9:45pm, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard.

Shepard said the incident is still under in-

vestigation, but police located the driver yesterday. "Investigators believe alco-

hol as a determining factor in the case," Shepard said.

The report did not indicate whether the driver was arrested.

See MAN on Page 4

US govt seeks court approval for 6 CUC projects worth \$5M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The U.S. government has requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to approve six projects for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that have a total budget of \$5 mil- and Task Orders 11 to 14. lion, mostly grant funded.

The U.S. government, through the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, asked the court to approve CUC projects under the socalled amended Task Order 1

See US on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Green Meadow School's Samuel Lino Cabrera won the gold medal for the 3rd-5th grade division in the CNMI STEM Fair.





China raised import duties on a \$3 billion list of U.S. pork, fruit and other products Monday in an escalating tariff dispute with President Donald Trump.

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LIFE & STYLE

North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un clapped his hands and said he was "deeply moved" as he Watched a rare performance by South Korean pop stars visiting Pyongyang.

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Local

Couple sues over malfunctioning elevator

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

Former Indigenous Affairs executive director Ignacio DLG Demapan and his wife, Frieda S. R. Demapan, have filed a lawsuit against the owner of a building along Beach Road, where the Saipan Mayor's Office is located, for allegedly failing to maintain its elevator that bounced violently, causing them injuries.

The Demapan couple, through counsel David G.

Banes, is suing Chong International Corp. and its majority shareholder and manager, Jang Lee Chong, for negligence.

The couple asked the Superior Court to hold CIC and Chong liable to pay them damages for economic and non-economic injuries and losses, pain and suffering, mental anguish, medical care and expenses in an amount to be proven at trial. They are also demanding payment of attorney's fees and court costs.

lord of Ladera Center Building located on Beach Road, Saipan.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from Chong.

According to Banes, while commercial units in the Ladera Center may be leased to tenants, CIC retains control and possession of the common area and facilities in the building, including its elevator.

Banes said rather than hiring a professional third party that is competent to maintain and repair the elevator, Chong would personally try to maintain and repair the elevator.

Banes said that around July 18, 2017, during normal business hours, the Demapan couple went to the Ladera Center to go to the mayor's office.

Banes said in going up and down the building, the couple used the elevator.

During the couple's ride, the elevator allegedly malfunctioned and bounced violently, causing them to sustain injuries.

Banes said CIC's management, including Chong, who

live in the same building, knew people riding the elevator could be injured when it malfunctioned.

Banes said the management and Chong knew they were not competent to maintain and repair the elevator by themselves.

The lawyer said the day before the couple went to the Ladera Center, the elevator had severely malfunctioned and caused three minors to be struck inside, necessitating intervention by the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Banes said CIC and Chong had learned about that incident, but did not repair the elevator at all, nor did they put up a sign to warn people not to use the elevator.

Banes also disclosed that while CIC's annual report states a capitalization of \$1 million paid for its share, CIC is actually undercapitalized with regards to its actual and potential liabilities.

The lawyer alleged that the undercapitalization was intended by Chong "as a way to defeat claims of actual and potential creditors."

Bridge Capital donates \$1 for every reusable bag

CIC is the owner and land-

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

The Bridge Capital LLC partnered with Joeten Enterprises and the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance to lessen the usage of plastic bags across

the CNMI.

For every reusable bag distributed at Joeten Susupe or Joeten Garapan, Bridge Capital donates \$1.

MINA, in conjunction with Joeten Enterprises, has hosted numerous Celebrity Bagging events and Taya Plastic Tuesdays over the years, but this was the first time they paired up with Bridge Capital to give away free reusable bags.

The concept of Celebrity Bagging was for community celebrities like government officials, leaders in private agencies, and community role models to come out for one hour and bag groceries while they spread awareness of the benefits of reducing the use of plastic bags.

Celebrities who volunteered their time during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday were CNMI representatives, public figures, private company leaders, groups from government agencies, and active community members.

The Celebrity Bagging event is put on every year to discourage the use of plastic bags. Every shopper is given a free reusable bag with every purchase that they can reuse during Taya Plastic Tuesdays, or they can completely substitute the bags for plastic bags.

According to Bridge Capital chief operations officer Tucker Baldwin, MINA is an important organization on Saipan because they continuously help reduce the use of

plastic in the CNMI in order to keep the streets clean and the oceans clean.

This was the Bridge Capital's first year and they decided to up the ante by giving away free bags instead of having customers purchase them themselves.

"What we're doing in bridge, we're upping the ante a little bit. We're trying to make sure the people get the bags that they need to participate. Everybody will take a bag home today and they can re-use that on Taya Plastic Tuesdays so they don't have to buy another bag...This gives the community more re-

sources to fight environmental pollution," he said.

During the Celebrity Bagging event, MINA also set up an informational booth outside Joeten Susupe and Joeten Garapan to educate anyone interested on how plastic bags can affect marine life while also polluting the island.

According to MINA Tasi Watch lead ranger Wayne Dawe, events like the Celebrity Bagging are extremely important because it has been an ongoing issue where in marine animals continue to die due to the consumption of plastic.

"I think it's really important. It reduces plastic bags getting into the ocean because most of the marine life mistake it [plastic bags] for food and they end up eating it," he said.

Daniel Kaipat, Tasi Watch second ranger, said that through the Celebrity Bagging event and the Taya Plastic Tuesdays, over 2,000 plastic bags are lefts un-used and do not enter the ocean.

"Its one of the goals of Taya Plastic Tuesdays and why we like to offer reusable bags," he said.

The amount of bags distributed and the amount raised for MINA has yet to be announced by Bridge Capital.



Contact your congressional office at 323-2647 (Saipan), 433-2647 (Tinian), or 532-2647 (Rota) or email kilili@mail.house.gov for more information.

Senate approves CNMI Scholarship, CUC board members

By ERWIN ENCINARES

The Senate unanimously approved the appointment of an Office of the CNMI Scholarship board member and a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member last week.

Tianna Hofschneider and Ignacio Perez were appointed to the Scholarship board and reappointed to the CUC board, respectively, by a unanimous vote to approve Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' appointments.

Hofschneider, a teacher from Tinian, said it was her first time to be appointed to the board. "I am looking forward to work with the Scholarship board," Hofschneider said in an interview. She added that she is looking to focus on existing programs of the board as well as future programs to "ensure our students seek higher education."

Hofschneider is currently the junior high teacher at the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School.

"There are future programs that I have been informed of by scholarship board chairwoman Rose Pangelinan. I just want to work alongside them to ensure that these programs are offered to current students as well as future students." said Hofschneider.

Torres appointed Hofschneider in Jan. 10, 2018.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) went on the record during the session to express his support to the nominee. He added that during the public hearing by the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, chaired by Sen. Francisco Cruze (R-Tinian), Tianna Hofschneider was able to prove herself capable and effective.

"I believe she is more than ready to further extend her services to other sectors of public service—in this case, the scholarship board," he said.

"I thank her for allowing herself the additional responsibility," he added, taking note that she is also a teacher on Tinian.

Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Saipan) referred to Tianna Hofschneider as a "dedicated and committed woman of the Commonwealth. " She added that even though she was unable to attend the public hearing for Tianna Hofscheider, she had full



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bilities solely based on her

confidence on her capa- resume and other pertinent documents.

confidence that Ms. Hof- Commonwealth well if she

"...I have full trust and schneider can serve the is confirmed to the Scholarship board," she said.



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Financed at 2.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$380.81 or \$175 per paycheck based on a 15% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$22,848.60.

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TORRES

From Page 1

we continue to fully address our government's longstanding obligations in a fiscally sustainable manner," Torres said in a statement.

Torres added that his proposed budget supports the needs of the CNMI's growing and thriving population and projects revenues for this next year increasing by about \$21.4 million.

"This budget is part of the overall step toward a future that expands opportunity for everyone who calls these islands home. This is not a perfect budget, and we are cognizant of the several challenges that lie ahead. But we look forward to working with the Legislature on a budget that will not only strike a fair balance for all of our government agencies, but also to address the critical needs of our community," he said.

Taxes driven

In his transmittal letter to Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), the governor said the Commonwealth's gross budgetary resources are derived from taxes.

"Business gross revenue tax, income tax, excise taxes, and other taxes (hotel occupancy, bar and beautification taxes), are 91 percent of total budgetary resources," he said.

Torres added that the net resources available for

general appropriation is \$167,039,225, after adjusting for debt service appropriations, earmarked funds, and other legal obligations. The budgetary gross adjustment reflects the inclusion of the allocation to the Settlement Fund amounting \$44 million.

The \$44 million is authorized pursuant to Public Law 20-33 (the Settlement Fund Revolving Fund) as stipulated in the Settlement Fund Agreement 468-1 (Case 1:09-CV-00023) Section II §1.26. In total, the allocation of \$55,306,827, or 21 percent set aside, for the legal obligations of the government to the Settlement Fund for the minimum annual payment sufficient to enable the Fund to pay the 75 percent of Class Members Full Benefits.

Torres told Palacios and Demapan that he remains optimistic that the CNMI economy will continue to flourish in the coming fiscal year.

"This budget anticipates a modest revenue growth to enable the Commonwealth to continue to provide valuable services to the community. The estimates for FY 2019 continue to factor the assumptions for economic growth resulting from continued higher number in tourist arrivals, as well as continued collection and increased enforcement actions by the regulatory agencies of the Commonwealth," he said.

PSS gets more, money for indigent care

Torres proposed budget of over \$42 million to PSS surpasses the mandates of House Legislative Initiative 18-12 by allocating 25.6 percent of the total budgetary resources available for appropriation.

The governor said the \$42,775,117 set aside for PSS represents a \$6.2-million increase from last fiscal year's budget.

Torres also gave CHCC \$5.515.299 of which \$250,000 would help defray the cost of medical care for the inmates incarcerated at the Department of Corrections and \$2,750,000, set aside to help defray the cost of clinical services for the indigent population.

"Additional funding to CHCC is also allocated at 40 percent of the total funds available from Tobacco Settlement and Tobacco Control pursuant to the distribution stipulated in P.L. 13-37. The Compact Impact funds associated with this allocation is data driven thus the current estimate may be adjusted upwards depending on impact of services provided to Freely Associated States Citizens," Torres added.

COTA gets sizeable budget

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority also got an increase in its budget as it moves toward the implementation of the islands' transit system

Torres said the budget will be used to acquire four transit buses and the hiring of 15 transit bus drivers.

He noted that COTA's first transit route would launch on April 9, 2018 between the Garapan district and the Northern Marianas College.

Additional routes will be implemented this year upon arrival of the transit buses procured through the Federal Transit Authority Programs.

"This program is a critical component of our efforts to encourage greater participation of our residents in our labor force. Consistently we witness potential employees unable to assume full-time positions in our economy due to the inability to find consistent transportation to their place of employment. More broadly, this program will aid in encouraging the community to utilize the transit system to help save energy and promote a clean environment," he said in justifying COTA's budget to Palacios and Demapan.

Other highlights of this year's budget proposal include:

- \$18,685,724, for the First and Second Senatorial Districts
- \$11,019,340, for the retirees Group Health and Life Insurance
- \$4,892,553, for the Northern Marianas College
- \$4,640,200, for Medicaid Matching
- \$3,058,094, for the Third Senatorial District community programs
- \$978,505, for the Department of Corrections to fully fund inmate meals
- \$799,319, for the Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Program
- \$450,000, for mold remediation at the Guma Hustisia

The SUV made a left turn

on Mihaville in Garapan.

The witness was able to get the vehicle's license plate and provided the police with the suspect's descriptions.

Shepard said police located the SUV seven hours later.

The victim is the first traffic fatality in the CNMI this year.

to obtain the right equipment needed to haul the loads of trash from affected areas: not to mention the affected areas

Guerrero said that all they can do right now is continue to conduct surveillance, survey the area, and haul out as much trash as each ranger

In the meantime, while MINA collects as much environmental make it into the ocean, and by picking up as much debris as they can off of the streets,

"It takes all of us," she said.

\$340,000, for the Emergency Operations Center acquisition of a webEOC software

■ \$322,167, for Medical Referral's hiring of Utilization Reviewers

■ \$200,000, for the Department of Labor's supplement of the summer job program

■ \$177,000, for the Joeten Kiyu Public Library Expansion

US

From Page 1

projects are grant funded and budgeted at \$4,879,000, while one is court registry funded and budgeted at \$165,000, or for a total budget of \$5.044.000. The CNMI government was required to deposit certain amount of funds to court registry under the settlement agreement with the U.S. government.

O'Brien said the Task Order projects are intended to be completed primarily by Gilbane Federal, the courtappointed engineering and environmental management company (EEMC), with the assistance of CUC.

O'Brien said CUC and the CNMI government support the U.S. government's request.

Amended Task Force Order 1 relates to EEMC construction and management administration costs relating to Stipulated Order No. 2.

Stipulated Order No. 2 projects relate to oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response.

In addition to EEMC management costs, O'Brien said the amended Task Order 1 includes two specific projects.

He said one project relates to assisting CUC with developing a regulatory compliant facility response plan reflecting new infrastructure and increasing CUC's ability to respond to an oil spill.

The EEMC will rely on CUC to provide on-theground logistical support.

This project, O'Brien said, is grant funded and budgeted at \$150,000.

The second project relates to assisting CUC in developing a corrosion and cathodic protection manual to allow CUC to better maintain and increase the longevity of metal structures such as tanks and ancillary equipment.

O'Brien said cathodic protection is especially important in CNMI's salty and humid environment as corrosion is more prevalent in this environment.

He said this project is grant funded and budgeted \$50,000.

He said the amended Task Order 1 increases the 2017-2018 funding ceiling by \$382,000 with \$321,000 borne by grand funding and \$61,000 borne by the court registry.

Task Order 11 relates to utilizing an in-line inspection tool (smart pig) to delineate "as

built" conditions of the recently constructed CUC pipeline.

O'Brien said the smart pig will be run through the CUC pipeline to record and document baseline data such as pipe metal thickness and potential deformations.

This project, O'Brien said, is grant funded and budgeted at \$591,500.

Task Order 12 relates to improving surface drainage conditions and systems at Power Plants 1 and 2 and Power Plant 4 to control surface water, minimize and contain oil impacted water, and prevent offsite oil migration.

This project, O'Brien said, is grant funded and budgeted at \$2,376,500.

He said the amount of Task Order 12 work may increase with court approval, if additional funding becomes available from other Task Orders or funding sources.

Task Order 13 is a Phase 2 project and relates to facility waste management improvements at Power Plants 1 and 2.

Task Order 13, O'Brien said, involves procuring, shipping, installing, and commissioning an incinerator system.

The incinerator system will accommodate only nonhazardous solid materials from CUC's power plants.

O'Brien anticipated that the need for the Power Plants 1 and 2 incinerator system to manage Rota power plant materials will be greatly diminished due to the Rota Power Plant eliminator system.

Although Task Order 13 is on schedule, the incinerator system is subject to CNMI permitting, he said.

Task Order 13 is currently grant funded and budgeted at \$1,711,000.

O'Brien said discussions have been held to evaluate whether a portion of Task Order 13's costs should be court registry funded.

Task Order 14 is a phase 2 project that relates to Rota power plant waste management improvements and the purchase and installation of advanced oil filtration equipment.

Specifically, O'Brien said, an advanced oil filtration unit known as the eliminator will be installed on the Rota Power Plant's four main Cummins generator sets.

This project, he said, will enhance operational efficiencies and reduce long-term operational costs.

Task Order 14 is court registry funded and budgeted at \$165,000.

MAN

From Page 1

Investigation showed that on Sunday at 6:53pm, a caller notified DPS dispatch of an auto-pedestrian collision near Saipan Ice and Water Co.

Police learned that the in-

cident occurred in the southbound shoulder of Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

When police officers and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services medics arrived at the scene, they found the victim, who was lying unconscious in the driveway of

the water company.

Medics transported the victim to CHC emergency room at 7:06pm.

Shepard said according to a witness, a green SUV struck the victim, but the driver did not stop and instead continued driving toward the south direction.

be from who knows where. Some of them could be generated here with the run off en-

the islands' locals are responsible for the enormous amounts of trash that are washed up on

excessive amount of marine debris, and the alliance does not have the funding needed

are inaccessible to vehicles.

can carry on foot.

MARINE

From Page 1

internationally and has spread to the CNMI, impacting more than 200 species of animals. At least one third of all sea birds consume marine debris and almost all sea turtle species consume debris.

About four months ago, MINA Tasi Watch rangers discovered a huge bird lying in a pile of debris sprawled across the beautiful shore of Old Man by the Sea during the Tasi Watch's regular surveillance.

The team dissected the bird and as they theorized, the bird had died from consuming an excessive amount of marine debris like plastic bottles, plastic caps, plastic bags, etc.

Marine debris, according to an entry found on a national geographic feature about the Pacific trash vortex, is litter that ends up in the ocean and other large bodies of water. An enormous amount a portion of the debris found of marine debris has accumulated over the years and has formed a sort of pile in the North Pacific Ocean that is now known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Guerrero said in an interview that due to storm surges in the last couple of years and the continuous climate change, currents continue to shift and as a result, the marine debris has been washing up on Saipan's shores in bulk.

"This trash gets washed up on Saipan's shores and it could just throw their trash on the ground," she said. Guerrero said that although on Saipan's shores could have been produced by the islands' residents, it is not possible that

ters the water or when people

the islands' beautiful shores every day. Guerrero said there isn't much the alliance can do in terms of clean up because the alliance does not have the manpower to clear up the

funds as they can to carry out clean up missions, the community can help out by practicing conservation like properly disposing trash so they don't

or off of the shore.

Judge grants in part Navy's, Defense's request to reverse order to compel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order Thursday that granted in part the U.S. Department of Navy's and the U.S. Department of Defense's request for the court to reverse its order that compels them to add more documents to the record in the lawsuit filed by four environment groups.

In the order she issued after the hearing, Manglona said after reviewing the briefs on the motion and the record, she finds that reconsideration of her Feb. 12, 2018 decision and order is warranted.

The Feb. 12 order compels the Navy and Defense to add four specific documents to the record in the groups' lawsuit. The documents refer to the final training needs assessment, final CNMI Joint Military Training Requirements and siting study, March 14, 2013 Federal Register notice, and draft CJMT environmental impact statement.

In her Feb. 12 order, Manglona found that the Navy had considered the four specified documents when it was preparing the supplemental environmental impact statement regarding the relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

In her order Thursday, Manglona said with respect to the four specific documents, she has reviewed the arguments submitted by defendants Navy and Defense and is persuaded that her prior ruling was clearly erroneous in part.

The judge granted the groups' motion to complete the administrative record as to their request for the March 14 Federal Register notice announcing the Navy's intent to prepare the CJMT EIS, and their request for the draft CJMT EIS.

Manglona ordered defendants Navy and Defense to file with the court these two documents as a supplemental administrative record within 14 days from yesterday.

Manglona denied the groups' motion to complete the administrative record as to their request for all drafts, analyses, memoranda, letters, emails, presentations, and other documents related to all four specified documents they sought.

The judge also denied the groups' request to admit the four specified documents and related materials as extra-record evidence.

The Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity, through counsel David L. Henkin of Earthjustice, are suing the Navy, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer, Defense, and Defense Secretary James Mattis over the Navy's decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-training on Tinian and Pagan.

The groups are suing the defendants for alleged violation of the National Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Procedure Act.

The groups claim that the Navy and DOD have violated NEPA and APA by failing to consider the relocation efforts and potential construction of live-fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan as "connected actions" in a single environmental impact

Defendants, through the U.S. Department of Justice, then moved the court to reconsider its Feb. 12 order. The groups opposed the

Defendants argued that it was error for the court to find that any of the four specific documents were considered on relied on by the Navy in preparing the 2010 and 2015 records of decision for the relocation.

Further, defendants maintained that the court erred in granting the groups' request for all related documents.

In her order Thursday granting in part and denying in part defendants' motion for reconsideration, Manglona said with respect to the Federal Register notice, defendants submit that it is simply "a notice of intent" but does not indicate the Navy relied on or considered it in conducting the NEPA review for the Guam relocation.

However, Manglona said, the record must include all documents directly and indirectly considered by the agency in reaching a final

Manglona said issuing notices of intent is a required part of the process for creating an environmental impact statement and reaching a final decision.

The judge said the Navy reviewed the Federal Register notice as part of its decision making process with respect to the Guam relocation, and based on the scope of analysis, in part, on what was included in the CJMT environmental impact statement process.

Thus, she said, the notice was con- Manglona sidered and that her prior order as to the Federal Register notice stands.

With respect to the training needs assessment and siting study, Manglona concluded that it was clear error that these two documents be added to the record.

Manglona said as defen-



did not adequately consider, "a mere reference in the administrative record is insufficient."

dants originally ar-

gued, but the court

With respect to the draft CJMT environmental impact

statement, the judge said defendants contend that the emails do not indicate that the Navy considered the substance of the CJMT EIS.

Manglona said as set forth in her Feb. 12 order, the emails demonstrate that Navy employees or contractors shared information about the Guam and CJMIT EIS to ensure that certain information was consistent.

Thus, the judge said she concluded the data in CJMT EIS was both available to and considered by the Navy when undertaking the NEPA review for the Guam relocation.

Manglona said the defendants have offered no new information or arguments to persuade her that her decision was clearly erroneous.

Accordingly, she said, the draft CJMT EIS that was available at the time of the final Guam supplemental

environmental statement impact and Records of Decision in 2015 must be added to the administrative record.

Finally, Manglona said, the groups offered no evidence to suggest that defendants considered drafts, analyses, memoranda, letters, emails, presentations, and other documents related to the four specified documents.

Accordingly, Manglona said, it was clear error for the court to have granted the request to require defendants to include these related documents in the administrative record.





Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

Cabrera to represent CNMI in STEM Fair in Guam

Samuel Lino Cabrera, a fifth grader from Green Meadow School, won the gold medal for the 3rd-5th grade division in the STEM Fair held at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School in Kagman last March 10.

Aside from the gold medal, Cabrera received a certificate of participation and gift certificates from McDonald's Saipan and National Office Supply.

Cabrera will be one of the

representatives of the CNMI team for the STEM Fair in Guam on May 4-5, 2018.

"I am so glad I won but at the same time I am also nervous to think that I will have to compete off-island," said Cabrera when they announced he won the gold medal.

Meliza Umali, the STEM coordinator of GMS, guided the students who joined in the CNMI-wide STEM Fair.

Sabino Cabrera were overjoyed upon hearing his son will be competing off-island. "I want to be there when he competes in Guam for moral support," he said.

"God is good. He guides our students, teachers, and parents in every activity our school undertakes. This is a perfect example of that," said Milagros Songcuan, GMS president/principal when she learned about the great news.

As of this writing, the CNMI STEM FAIR committee and the school chaperones

tee and the school chaperones are making preparations for the trip. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Green Meadow School fifth
grader Samuel Lino Cabrera
will represent the CNMI in the
3rd-5th grade division of the
STEM FAIR regionals that will
be held in Guam this May.



ting closer and closer, and our community leaders have really stepped up this year," said MMAC 2018 co-chair Carline Sablan. *(PR)*

Hofschneider Engineering is major sponsor for MMAC 2018

Hofschneider Engineering Corp. will once again be a major sponsor for the Marianas March Against Cancer, marking another year of contribution and commitment to the CNMI's fight against cancer.

Major sponsorship is given to one company or organization that has made a donation worth over \$1,000 in cash or in-kind services.

This year, the corporation has pledged \$1,000 in monetary donations to MMAC 2018.

"We'd like to thank Hofschneider Engineering Corp. for returning once again as a devoted sponsor for MMAC. For years, they've marched alongside us and the community. We want to express our greatest gratitude to HEC and all our sponsors for making this year's MMAC 2018 event possible," said MMAC 2018 Sponsorship chair Monique Sablan.

"Hofschneider Engineering's continual commitment is another reminder of our community's dedication to the cause. Our community partners demonstrate time and time again how impor-

HOFSCHNEIDER ENGINEERING

CORPORATION

tant this fight is to all of us," said MMAC 2018 co-chair Bobby Cruz.

"We are very grateful for another year of sponsorship from Hofschneider Engineering. They have continued to support this cause in more ways than one, and it is great knowing that they continue to be a part of our network of partners. MMAC 2018 is get-

Marianas March Against Cancer \$ 1,000.00

Marianas March Against Cancer \$ 1,000.00

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas March Against Cancer 2018 organizing committee members pose with Hofschneider Engineering Corp. staff after the latter agreed to become a major sponsor of the 2018 MMAC.

Traders Insurance is major sponsor for MMAC 2018

Traders Insurance Co. will once again be a major sponsor for the Marianas March Against Cancer, marking another year of contribution and commitment to the CNMI's fight against cancer.

Major sponsorship is given to one company or organization that has made a donation worth over \$1,000 in cash or in-kind services.

This year, the company has pledged \$1,000 in monetary donations to MMAC 2018.

"Every year, we send out our annual sponsorship packets to our community seeking support for this cause and the abundance of love we get back every year is truly amazing. Thank you to Traders Insurance for always joining us on this fight and for donating the same generous amount again this year," said MMAC 2018 Sponsorship chair Monique Sablan.

"Traders Insurance is once again another proud supporter of MMAC, and we are very grateful for their recommitment. Every year, the event wouldn't be possible if it weren't for our network of partners dedicating themselves to the cause," said MMAC 2018 co-chair Bobby Cruz.

"The contributions made by Traders Insurance once again speaks highly of their dedication to the fight. Battling cancer is a community effort, and our sponsors are the backbone of achieving our mission," said MMAC 2018 co-chair Carline Sablan. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas March Against Cancer 2018 organizing committee members pose with Traders Insurance Co. staff after the latter agreed to become a major sponsor of the 2018 MMAC.

CNMI Junior High Mock Trial on April 7

Junior high and middle school students will be arguing a fictitious case of a shoot out in the case of the *United States v. Lou Perez* at the 13th Annual CNMI Junior High Mock Trial on Saturday, April 7, at the US District Courts of the NMI in Garapan.

The CNMI Junior High Mock Trial is a signature program of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council where students learn about the law and standard courtroom procedures. Though the program is non-competitive, special recognition will be given to students who give outstanding performances in their roles as attorneys or witnesses.

Over 50 students from eight different schools have registered. Participating schools include Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, Dandan Middle School, Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, and Tinian Junior Senior High School.

Schools have been paired up over four rounds, which will be presided by a judge. This year's judges are Associate Justice John Manglona, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio and Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

The program begins Saturday, April 7, at 9am at the Hiroguchi Building in Garapan. It is free and open to the public.

The CNMI Junior High Mock Trial is made possible through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and in partnership with the CNMI Judiciary.

For more information, call the council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 7 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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KCHC receives 3-year grant extension

Kagman Community Health Center's federal grant has been extended, according to its executive director Vince Castro.

The grant extends the community health center program for three years with funding of just over \$1 million annually.

The clinic's commitment

the CNMI remains its highest priority. For the first time in five years, the clinic has been awarded this funding for the KCHC board of directors to operate independently.

The KCHC board and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone

to serving all of the people of who helped throughout the the rest of the CHCC team, positions KCHC to take a creased coverage for indigent evolution of the clinic; from the earliest stages of its planning up to the current state of operations. In particular, the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Board of Directors, especially CEO Esther Muña and

deserve recognition. Without their support, KCHC would not have been able to provide the much-needed health care services to our service area and the greater CNMI community.

The grant extension and change in administration more active role as it works to overcome the healthcare challenges facing the CNMI. The KCHC board and staff look forward to expanding services over the coming months including the addition of mental health and substance abuse services, incare, and introduction of telehealth services for veterans. KCHC strives to maintain the personalized high quality carewhich has become its trademark while continuing to operate as a Nationally Recognized Patient Centered Medical Home. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Emergency water service interruption

There was an emergency water service interruption yesterday, April 2, for customers along the areas of Beach Road from Atkins Kroll to YCO True Value Hardware and Middle Road from the Chalan Kiya traffic light to the Gualo Rai traffic light.

The cause of the interruption is from a 16-inch water mainline break located in front of Chong's Refrigeration in Chalan Laulau that identified yesterday was morning.

Water operations personnel are making the necessary repairs and are expected to be completed this morning, April 3, at 6am. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon after.

For the safety of men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution when traveling through the area or to take alternative routes as the northbound lane will be closed.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https:// www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). **(PR)**

PTSA meeting at San Antonio school

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, formerly San Antonio Middle School, will conduct a Parent Teacher Student Association meeting on Thursday, April 5, at 6pm in the school's cafeteria. (PR)

April flag-raising ceremony honors **Barrigada veterans**

HAGATNA, Guam—After a brief weather delay the monthly flag-raising ceremony was held yesterday on the Guam Congress building lawn. The Guam Legislature this month honors veterans from the Barrigada Veterans Organization. Several men and women from the organization along with senators, Barrigada Mayor June Blas and vice mayor Jesse Bautista, and Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) attended yesterday's ceremony, which is held every month to honor the men and women who have served proudly as members of the U.S. military.

The inaugural ceremony was held in November last year. The next flag raising ceremony is slated for Monday, May 7, 2018. (PR)

Proclamation event today

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the CNMI DCCA Division of Youth Services are inviting members of the community to take part in the proclamation signing ceremony for Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness and Prevention Month today, April 3, 2018, at 9am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The proclamation signing ceremony will recognize April 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness and Prevention Month in the CNMI. (PR)

Art-in-the-Park at the AMP

The American Memorial Park is partnering with artists and organizations to provide free art classes to the community under the 2nd Annual Art-in-the-Park series. All ages are welcome. Kimberly Mendiola will teach watercolor painting on April 7, from 9am to 12pm. At the end of the art sessions, on April 21, artwork will be displayed at the Visitor Center for the National Park Week. Space is limited so register soon! To register for a class, visit the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. The center is open daily from 9am to 5pm. For questions contact ranger Brooke Nevitt or education specialist Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207x2020 or email brooke nevitt@nps. gov. (NPS)

SCC now accepting scholarship applications

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for its Educational Scholarship Fund. Hard copies of the Chamber scholarship applications are available at the Chamber office and can also be delivered to schools upon request. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application which are due on or before 5pm on Friday, April 20,

2018, at its office in the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315. The scholarships will be awarded at the Chamber's monthly general membership meeting on June 6, 2018. Chamber scholarship applications are also available on the website, www.saipanchamber.com. For more information call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)

Marriage Encounter sets ME Weekend

Marriage Encounter will be

having an ME Weekend on April 27-29, 2018, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Participating couples will reside at the hotel for the entire weekend. Participants for the Weekend will be asked to check-in by 6:30pm on Friday evening. The presentation starts that evening, continuing all day Saturday and will end by 5pm on Sunday. Participants are asked to eat dinner on Friday prior to registration, and arrange coverage for their family members and pets Friday afternoon through late Sunday afternoon. Worldwide Marriage Encounter makes all hotel and food arrangements. All that is needed to secure a spot is a non-refundable application fee of \$100. The Marriage Encounter Weekend is limited to 15 couples. Couples may submit applications with payment (cash, check payable to Worldwide Marriage Encounter) to Joe & Linda Muña at lbmuna@gmail. com or call 287-2102. Couples may also register online at: https://goo.gl/ YpNvd2. *(PR)*

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on April 3 and 5 from noon to 8pm. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. (PR)

NMC invites public to **Open Mic Night**

Northern Marianas College is inviting the public to its Open Mic Night on Friday, April 6, 2018, at The Shack in celebration of National Poetry Month. The event welcomes participants of all ages and a diverse range of poems to share. Admission is free and food and drinks will be available for purchase. For more information contact Adam Walsh at adam.walsh@marianas. edu. *(PR)*

Candidates invited to appear on radio show

All candidates running for public office will be given equal air time regardless of party affiliation on the Marianas Agupa radio talk show from May 2018 to Sept. 30, 2018.

To schedule your radio appearance on the talk show, contact show host Glenn H. Manglona as soon as possible at 287-4536 or via email at gmanglona@gmail.com. The deadline to secure your air time on the show is April 30, 2018. Do not wait, contact now and make arrangement.

Candidates on Rota and Tinain, your radio appearance will be through phone patch by Thomas D. Mendiola and David M. Cing, respectively.

The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (direct to studio at 234-5929 or use Marianas Agupa Facebook account via instant messaging.) (PR)

Islandwide cleanup on April 20

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be joining the 2018 Environmental Awareness Month Islandwide Cleanup on Friday, April 20, from 3pm to 4:30pm and Saturday, April 21, from 8am to 10am. If you would like to volunteer, contact the BECQ no later than April 18, 2018, at 4pm. For more information about volunteering, contact Jose Kaipat at 664-8500/1. (PR)





SUMMER VISIT

Marianas Ocean Tourism Ambassador Yorko Summer, in red, visits Taga Beach with his entourage on March 13, 2018, in Tinian. Summer was on Saipan from March 8 to 9 and was accompanied by 2017 Intern to The Marianas

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Sherry Lin, 2017 Intern to The Marianas, learns mwarmaking from Lani Marciano on March 8, 2018, at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in Saipan.

Guam Election Commission to get \$600K in federal assistance for 2018 election

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) recently announced that the U.S. Election Assistance Commission will make available \$600,000 in federal financial assistance to the Guam Election Commission. The federal funds will be provided to the Guam Election Commission to improve the administration of elections,

enhance technology, and provide election security improvements.

These federal funds are provided through Congressional authorization in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. They will be distributed to states and territories to support programs established by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Following approval of an application from the Guam Election Commission, funds may be used to support the upcoming 2018 election, including for:

Purchasing leasing voting systems;

■ Designing, implementing, or con-Bordallo ducting post-election audit systems;

■ Modernizing and better securing election-related



cyber vulnerabilities identified U.S. Department of

> Homeland Security or similar scans or assessments of existing election systems;

computer systems,

including voter reg-

■ Upgrading elec-

tion-related computer

systems to address

through

istration systems;

■ Purchasing cyber secu-

election officials;

■ And, implementing established cybersecurity best practices for election systems and other activities that will improve the security of elections for federal office.

"Elections are the foundation our representative democracy. I am pleased that the Guam Election Commission will receive \$600,000 from the

rity training for state and local U.S. Election Assistance Commission to improve the election process on Guam. Voters must have full confidence in the integrity of their ballot, and these funds will ensure the security of our local elections. I am confident the Guam Election Commission will prioritize this funding opportunity in order to further strengthen and secure our election system on Guam." (PR)

SS *lopeka* returns to Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Topeka (SSN 754) returned to its homeport of Apra Harbor, Guam, on March 30 following a three-month forward-operating period to the Western Pacific.

Topeka conducted routine patrols throughout the Indo-Pacific region in support of maritime security operations that promote stability while maintaining key partnerships with allies across the region.

Family and friends were on the pier to greet their sailors, welcoming them back to Guam following their period at sea. One family member traveled more than 7,800 miles to be on the pier to welcome her Sailor, Information Systems Technician Submarines 2nd Class Nate Carver.

"I flew out to Guam from Timberland, North Carolina to surprise my son," said Sonia Carver. "He has no idea I'm here. This is my first time to Guam and the first time anyone in our family has met Nate on the pier. My fiancé passed away unexpectedly about five weeks ago, and [Nate] was looking forward to giving me away at our wedding. He was really upset he couldn't come home [to be there for me], so I came to him."

Also among the families were Jen Brinda and her son Gavin, who won the ceremonial "First Kiss" to share with husband and father Chief Electrician's Mate (Nuclear) Carlton Brinda.

"I'm very excited to have [my husband] back," said

gresswoman Madeleine Z. Bor-

dallo (D-GU) recently issued

the following statement regard-

ing the approval of 162 H2-B

visa applications for Guam

businesses by the U.S. Citizen-

ship and Immigration Services.

The approvals are a direct re-

sult of federal legislative relief

sponsored by Congresswoman

Bordallo in P.L. 115-91, the

National Defense Authorization

begun approving H2-B visas

for Guam businesses. This is

"I am please USCIS has

Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

Bordallo pleased with H2-B visa approvals

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Con- exactly what my provision in

Brinda. "This is our last homecoming, so it's very special. It's also the first my son has seen; he just turned a year old."

Topeka, under the command of Cmdr. Steven Tarr III, is returning from the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility, where the crew executed the Chief of Naval Operations' Maritime Strategy in supporting national security interests and maritime security operations.

"There's no place like Guam," said Tarr. "My crew trained hard before we left to ensure we were prepared to conduct our national tasking. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them."

Topeka celebrated the various achievements of its crew members in their professional development.

"We had 10 sailors and two officers become submarine qualified, and two officer were promoted," said Senior Chief Sonar Technician Submarines Michael Wagnen, Topeka's chief of the boat. "The crew continues to challenge themselves professionally and personally, striving to always be better.'

Topeka was commissioned Oct. 21, 1989, and is the third ship of the U.S. Navy named for the city of Topeka, Kansas. It is the fourth "improved" Los Angeles-class submarine. Measuring more than 360 feet long and displacing more than 6,900 tons, Topeka has a crew of approximately 140 sailors. Topeka is capable of supporting various missions, including anti-submarine warfare,

last year's defense bill was

intended to do, and it is en-

couraging that our local com-

panies are beginning to see the

benefits of this federal law. I

continue working in Congress

to expand on this authority and

provide a full solution for our

entire island. I am confident

the recent visa approvals will

benefit civilian and military

projects related to the buildup

inside and outside the fence.

This is just the start, and I look

forward to more approvals in

the near future." (PR)

anti-surface ship warfare, strike warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Topeka is assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) 15, which is located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam, in Apra Harbor, Guam, and consists of four Los Angeles-class attack submarines. The COMSUBRON 15 staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to these commands. Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tenders USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) and USS Frank Cable (AS 40). The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are capable of meeting global operational requirements.

For more news from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, visit our official Navy website at http://www.csp. navy.mil/css15 and be sure to 'Like' our official Facebook page, which is located at https://www.facebook.com/ SubmarineSquadron15/. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family and friends were on the pier to greet sailors of the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Topeka that just recently returned to Guam.



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

April 3, 2018

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2018 AT $4:\!00$ P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Adoption of Agenda Adoption of Minutes

a. February 21, 2018
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Executive Director's Report

Administrative/Personnel Matters Loan Matters

Judgment Debts Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters—Updates Comptroller's Report

Legal Counsel's Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS Housing Financing

Micronesia Challeng CNMI State Bank Bill

Saipan Credit Union Robotics Technology

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER MATTERS

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on nda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

DAVID S. DEMAPAN Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

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Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board will hold its 2018 1st Regular Membership Meeting on April, 6th, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority Conference Room located on the 2nd floor, Suite 216 of the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Call to Order Welcome & Introduction Roll call

Adoption of Agenda Adoption of Minutes- CPTAB May 19, 2016 Regular Membership Meeting

Public Comment on Agenda Items

New Business
A. Title VI System-wide Standards and Policies for Adoption-Action
B. Bus Fares for the Saipan Public Transit France Not Service for Adoption - Action

Route and Service Concept, Jacopt Concept)—Action
Saipan Public Transit Fixed Route Full System Map (adopt concept) — Action
Fixed Route Riders Guide for Adoption — Action
Call-A-Ride Saipan (CARS) Riders Guide for Adoption — Action
Application for ADA Paratransit Service Eligibility for Adoption-Action

Transit Status Report
Human Resource & Procurement Updates
A. Personnel Matters
B. COTA Organizational Chart Updated 2018

Procurement of 3 Buses for COTA Fixed Route
 Bid Published on March 15, 2018
 Financial Status Report

XII. Grant Status Report
XIII. Executive Session: CPTAB may vote to go into executive session as provided under the CNMI Open Government Act
XIV. Misc.

Next Meeting date

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations are requested to call COTA within one (1) to two (2) business days at (670) 664-2682.

/S/Sonva P. Dancoe, Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

10 TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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EDITORIAL

Money for AK-47s? No more shady deals

hanks to reporting by the investigative news website Florida Bulldog, we have new evidence to challenge the idea of giving public money to private businesses in private.

In 2015, Broward County and Pompano Beach pledged money toward a state effort to recruit the American maker of the Russian AK-47—known as the Kalashnikov, after its inventor. Designed in 1947, it became the model for military-style assault rifles.

According to Florida Bulldog, local elected officials knew only that the company— Kalashnikov USA—dealt in "firearms." Otherwise, it was Project 762. Kalashnikov USA was to receive a combined \$162,000 for bringing 54 jobs to Pompano Beach with an average salary of \$51,000.

It didn't happen. The company couldn't meet its obligations. Though this happened well before the Marjory Stoneman Douglas massacre, the revelation is embarrassing in a county where so many people are grieving. Nikolas Cruz owned an AK-47.

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance served as local supporter of the deal. President and CEO Bob Swindell told the website, "Right now, it's easy to say it was a bad decision, but we looked at it as 54 skilled advance manufacturing jobs. Obviously, we don't want jobs at any cost...(but) it's a challenge for us if we have to become an arbiter of social policy. Is the company legally licensed to do business? If those boxes are checked, we feel an obligation to help them."

Even if we grant Swindell his point about "social policy," there wasn't any debate in 2015 because almost no one knew which company was involved. More important, no one knew about the company itself.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, which Gov. Rick Scott supervises, proposed the incentives for Kalashnikov USA one year after President Obama imposed sanctions on Russia. Obama was responding to Russia's invasion of Crimea and its attempt to destabilize the pro-Western leadership of Ukraine.

Florida Bulldog reported there were signs that Kalashnikov USA was violating the sanctions. Yet the Department of Economic Opportunity as late as 2016 was urging Broward County to extend the deadline for the incentives package.

Scott's office denies that the incentives package violated the sanctions. Florida Bulldog has filed a public records request for documents related to the deal, to determine whether the governor's administration vetted the deal and, if so, how thoroughly.

But let's go back to 2015. If the Broward County Commission had known that Project 762 involved a company that made military-style weapons, would the commission have gone along? Would the commission and the Alliance have supported the deal if they had known it could violate sanctions? Would they have gone along if they had known that, as Bloomberg Businessweek reported, the company had links to Russian President Vladimir Putin?

See MONEY on Next Page



Trump is suffering from a bad case of autocrat envy

arly last month, shortly after China's Communist Party ended term limits on presidential rule—effectively making President Xi Jinping "president for life"—President Trump joked to donors, "I think it's great. Maybe we'll want to give that a shot someday."

In times past, with a president who hewed to democratic norms, the president's wisecrack would have gone unnoticed.

But with a president who has openly displayed such strong personal affinity for autocrats—starting with Vladimir Putin—the remark got wide play not just in U.S. media but also abroad. Trump has repeatedly demonstrated his desire to rid himself of the restraints imposed by constitutional checks and balances—and has frequently praised autocrats who don't have to worry about such limits.

"Look at who he's reached out to," says Stanford University's Larry Diamond, one of the foremost U.S. experts on democracy worldwide. "He has expressed admiration for (Hungary's illiberal leader Viktor) Orban, (Philippine President Rodrigo) Duterte, Xi, even Kim Jong Un, while the leaders he has displayed contempt for are prime minister of Australia and other democratically elected leaders, including the president of South Korea."

In other words, Trump is suffering from a bad case of autocrat envy. And the real risk is that his impatience with democratic norms will strengthen some deeply troubling trends laid out in a survey report Diamond and two co-authors released last week. Titled "Follow the Leader: Exploring American Support for Democracy and Authoritarianism," the report found these disturbing figures: three in 10 Americans would prefer a more authoritarian form of government in the United States.

To be more specific, a July 2017 survey of 5,000 Americans found that a quarter of U.S. adults like the idea of having "a strong leader who does not have to bother with Congress and elections," while 18 percent say that "having the army rule" would be a good or very good idea. Accounting for overlap, three in 10 Americans embrace at least one of these two authoritarian options.

Diamond and his colleagues recognize that, historically, there has always been a segment of Americans with such ideas. The difference now, he argues, is that there is a U.S. president whose own commitment to democracy appears shaky.

Diamond's survey found Trump supporters are substantially more supportive of a "strong leader" (32 percent) than are supporters of any other candidate from either major party (all of whom favored that option at levels of 20 percent). "Our data suggest a close affinity between politicians who play the race and immigration cards and citizens, anxious about social and

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

and editorialelphia Inquirer.
: Philadelphia
adelphia, Pa.
illynews.com.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.

economic change, who opt to 'follow the leader', " Diamond writes in The American Interest.

"A growing proportion of voters feel threatened by changes they feel unable to control — increasing immigration and cultural pluralism, deepening income inequality and insecurity, deindustrialization, and other challenges to national sovereignty posed by globalization. Illiberal populist leaders claim that they are merely responding to these anxieties, but they are also irresponsibly stoking them."

Including Donald Trump.

That new reality must also be viewed in a global context: a wave of illiberal demagogic populism is infecting many advanced industrial democracies and targeting immigrants as well as racial and religious minorities. Demagogues like Hungary's Orban, or uber right populist parties in Germany, France, Austria, and Italy are boosted by social media that travels across national boundaries.

Mix into this witches brew the cyber tactics (and funds) used by Russia to encourage extremist parties that will undermine democracies.

And add to the brew, the open admiration expressed by Trump for undemocratic tactics used by autocrats he has praised. Struggling civil society activists in Hungary, or Poland – or Russia – noticed when Trump congratulated Putin on winning a rigged election (against the advice of White House advisers). They note when he expresses envy at Duterte's (extralegal) success in killing drug dealers in the Philippines.

No longer is America seen as the symbol of an immutable democracy. "This cabal of autocrats sees there is disarray in the United States," says Yevgenia Albats, editor of the independent Russian news magazine New Times. "No one expects anything of Trump."

Yet, there is still some good news. Despite the core of Americans who seek a "strong leader" immune from democratic restraints, the public as a whole still backs democracy overwhelmingly as the best form of government, Diamond told me.

But he worries whether U.S. institutions can constrain a president with a soft spot for strongmen. "He will be as authoritarian as political constraints will let him be," Diamond argues. "You wonder what would happen if he violates norms more boldly. The test may come with firing (special investigator Robert) Mueller."

As of this spring, President Trump's autocratic urges are still curbed by the institutions designed by our founding fathers. Their strength will be tested in the summer and the fall.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If Trump crosses the line, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. should channel the great John Marshall

s President Donald Trump tangles with his own Justice Department, the country could be plunging toward a constitutional crisis. Whatever one thinks of the various allegations and ongoing investigations related to the president, it's getting hard to imagine that Trump will agree to answer the special counsel's questions under oath. If the president fires Robert S. Mueller III, seeks to obstruct the investigations or refuses to answer questions, what then? Ultimately, the answers must come from the Supreme Court.

The Roberts court, however, is bitterly divided between ideologues on the left and right. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. has been unable to forge a genuine consensus up until now on almost any significant issue. Unless the Supreme Court speaks with one voice, Trump may refuse to comply with the court's order. And if the president flouts the court, the Constitution and the rule of law itself may be threatened.

When the Supreme Court ordered President Nixon to surrender his presidential tapes during the Watergate investigations, the high court spoke with a unanimous voice to a man, who, whatever his faults, respected the authority of the judiciary. By contrast, Trump has often displayed disrespect and even disdain for judges and courts that disagreed with his views. Unlike Nixon, the president appears unfamiliar and impatient with the Constitution, its history and the delicate balance of power between the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.

If we reach back to the early days of our republic, we find comparable circumstances in the uneasy relationship between Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson and the Supreme Court under John Marshall, chief justice from 1801 to 1835. Like Trump, Jefferson and Jackson were elected on waves of rural Southern and Midwestern populism. Their victories -Jefferson in 1800 and Jackson in 1828 — signaled the revolt of the common man against the urban financial interests of the Northeast, a movement colored by racial prejudice and claims of "states' rights." Jefferson and Jackson disdained Marshall and other like-minded Federalist judges, who believed in the supremacy of the national government over the states.

Before Marshall, the Supreme Court was the weak sister in the federal trinity. It had modest authority and commanded little respect. It heard only about six cases a year, and none of them

MONEY

From Page 10

Broward County Mayor Beam Furr was on the commission when it approved Project 762. During his recent State of the County Address, Furr noted that the Alliance is "rethinking its approach regarding how we attract new businesses and corpora-

"Historically, we would try to offer a corporation some kind of incentive package to entice them here. We have offered thousands of dollars trying to lure businesses to Broward. ... But that gets expensive after a while, and it doesn't always work out or it only works while the money lasts or the tax break is in effect."

Indeed, multiple news reports have shown that Florida's record on incentives is spotty at best. There are successes, but there also are huge failures. Exhibit A is the animation company Digital Domain. Port St. Lucie approved \$40 million for a studio. Lawmakers sneaked another \$20 million for it into the state budget. Digital Domain collapsed and a church now occupies

Instead of incentives, Furr said, Broward should market its "talent," which he called "our new currency. ... We want businesses to know, if they bring their business to Broward, we can

As a long-term strategy, talent makes much more sense. Talent also helps all businesses, not just those singled out for favors. And there are no secrets on how public money is spent.

Project 762 was a bust. So is the process that created it.

Editorials are the opinion of the Sun Sentinel Editorial Board and written by one of its members or a designee. The Editorial Board consists of Editorial Page Editor Rosemary O'Hara, Elana Simms, Andy Reid and Editor-in-Chief Julie Anderson.

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were of great importance. Being a justice was no fun; they had to ride horseback around the country, officiating as appeals judges in taverns. The planners in Washington forgot to build a federal courthouse, and Congress grudgingly allowed the Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals and the District Court to share a cramped committee room on the ground floor of the Capitol. Its physical location testified to the lowly stature of the nation's highest court.

Against all odds, Marshall elevated the Supreme Court to the level of a co-equal branch of the federal government. He did it by insisting the court speak with a unified voice, in a single decision, as the final arbiter of the law. (Before Marshall, each justice issued a separate opinion.)

Marshall oversaw more than 1,100 cases over 34 years and wrote more than half of the opinions for those cases. In all but 36, the decision was unanimous. What makes this record that much more remarkable is that every justice appointed to the court after Marshall was chosen by a president who opposed the chief justice's Federalist philosophy.

Marshall fostered a high degree of collegiality and compromise among the justices. He consistently moved the court to the center, rejecting ideology and embracing pragmatism. Under him, the justices lived together and took their meals at the same Washington boardinghouse. Endowed with wit as well as intellect, Marshall was able to cajole and charm even his most ada-

By JOEL RICHARD PAUL

Los Angeles Times

Joel Richard Paul is the author of "Without Precedent: Chief John Marshall and His Times." He teaches constitutional law at the UC Hastings College of the Law. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



mant opponents.

When Jeffersonians campaigned to impeach Federalist justices, Marshall refused to be intimidated. He successfully resisted Jefferson's efforts to prosecute the vice president, Aaron Burr, for treason on questionable grounds. And the chief justice stood up to Jackson by defending the right of the Cherokee nation to occupy its ancestral land.

Marshall had the legal imagination, grace and courage to secure the integrity of our justice system against powerful presidents, bolstered by majorities in both houses of Congress, who often viewed the courts as an impediment to their agenda. We can only pray that if President Trump and his party precipitate a constitutional crisis today, Chief Justice Roberts will prove as capable of forging a consensus to defend the rule of law.

Putin's power, arrogance lead to costly Russian miscalculation that unites West

ladimir Putin has spent years trying to divide the West by undermining elections, invading neighbors and aggressively using Russian oil and gas as a ham-handed bargaining tool. These concerted and clever efforts have suddenly, however, revealed the New Putin: Despite his best efforts and plans, he's become a uniter, not a divider of the West.

Early 2018 had Putin heading towards a staggering, but not surprising, electoral victory against dead and disqualified opposition candidates. This dominance allowed Russia's president to ride his eventual 76.6 percent final poll tally to a new level of cavalier confidence on the global stage. Political dominance at home and fawning support from President Trump gave him a delusional sense of invincibility. It led him to overreach and miscalculate.

Now, well over 20 Western countries have joined together to give Putin the one-finger salute for a U.K. chemical agent attack he is suspected of either directing or condoning. The targets in the assassination attempt in Salisbury were a former Russian spy, Sergei Skripal, and his daughter Yulia.

Before the assassination attempt, and Prime Minister Theresa May's unequivocal and articulate assigning of blame to the Russians, the countries that banded to take action on Putin's Russiaseemed only nominally allied in a challenged NATO and fracturing EU. The ones still fighting together with NATO in Afghanistan wanted to quit and get out. The ones still in the EU were trying to figure out how to amputate their British arm, but save their European body.

Previously, these now collectively-acting Western countries were practically at each other's throats, blaming each other for trade transgressions, immigration policies, free-riding on defense, and welshing on subsidized welfare programs. Tough economic times and rising populist sentiment built fraternal resentment and, at times, outright animosity.

Russia, in the meantime, kept raising the temperature from a simmering pot of measured and unassignable meddling to a rapid boil of wars, airplane downings, coup attempts, WikiLeaks partnerships, coordinated cyberattacks and election interference. Ukraine, MH17, Montenegro, Podesta emails, American power plants, and the 2016 US presidential election — any one of these aggressive Russian-led or sanctioned actions would have normally been enough to call for a more forceful joint Western reaction instead of a collective yawn, up until the Skripal poisoning, May's outrage, and Putin's subsequent posturing.

Putin ignored one of the oldest rules in politics, a Napoleon maxim to never interfere with an enemy when he is in the proBy MARKOS KOUNALAKIS Special to McClatchy

Markos Kounalakis, Ph.D. is a senior fellow at Central European University and visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. Contact him at markos@stanford.edu.



cess of destroying himself. Putin clearly couldn't help himself or stop those who thought they were trying to help him €" and has succeeded in uniting the independently-minded, liberallyoriented, collective-averse Western allies who were on the path to dissolving their ties.

A weakened West was clearly comfortable accommodating Russia, building more gas pipelines and energy dependencies while also congratulating Putin on his power, politics, and personal magnetism. Felling a former spy, however, was the straw that broke the camel's back. It catalyzed a coordinated, collective Western response.

Whatever Russia does to react to the diplomatic expulsions of its diplomat-spies will only work to heighten East-West tensions and add to the resolve of the U.K. and it's allies to stick together. Even worse for Russia, its reactions will be self-defeating because the loss of Western diplomatic missions and personnel will cost Moscow more than Russia's consequent moves will inconvenience NATO, the EU, or the U.S. The biggest loss? Russia's spying capacity and tech-theft €" from San Francisco to Seattle €" will suffer a significant disruption.

Down the street from my home in San Francisco, the Russians were kicked out last year for previous transgressions, their consulate closed and their premier Silicon Valley listening post shut down, despite President Trump's inclinations. The former "Reds on Green Street" had a rooftop bristling with antennas and personnel populating local tech hangouts. Instead of building onthe-ground kompromat and recruiting spies at cafes, they now need to Google open-source intelligence.

Of course, Western allies will also lose in this tit-for-tat game by giving up their limited eyes and ears in Russia. But the Western economic consequences and political fallout are likely minimal, with Russia needing foreign exchange from energy sales more than the West needs reliable Russian wheat productivity figures.

12 TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN





89° **▼**76°





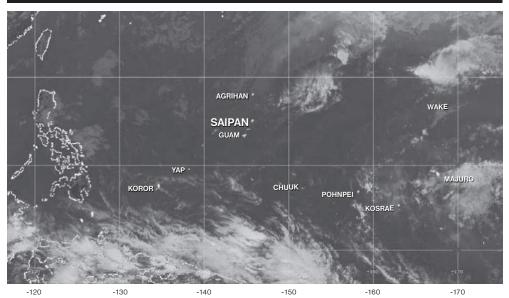


▼77° **▲ 87°**

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE

▲ 88°

▼76°



PICTURE TIME: 6:35 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180

The remains of Tropical Storm Jelawat could be found north of 20N. A surface trough extends from the remains down across the Marianas. The trough passed across the local area this morning and the winds changed from west to northwest. Drier air will filter into the local area in the wake of the trough. There will still be enough moisture to produce isolated showers today. The drier air will help the temperatures to fall to around 75 tonight and 76 Tuesday night. Winds will turn to the north tonight and to the northeast Tuesday. Computer models show no large scale weather systems passing near the Marianas and so expect only isolated showers through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	A	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	A ▼°F
Auckland	Showers	73° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 36°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 75°
London	Showers	55° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 50°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 73°
New York	Rain	46° / 44°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	75° / 52°
Paris	Rain	63° / 48°
Busan	Showers	61° / 48°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	81° / 59°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	58° / 48°
Seoul	Rain	57° / 45°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	73° / 54°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	62° / 58°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

	TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET					
	3:39 AM	LOW TIDE	0.58			
	9:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.91			
	4:01 PM	LOW TIDE	0.08			
Γ	10:15 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84			

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:06 am	8:58 pm
Wednesday	-	8:50 am	9:50 pm
Thursday	-	9:34 am	10:41 pm
Friday	-	10:20 am	11:31 pm
Saturday	-	11:07 am	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					
	, (S.	····/			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily		
			,		
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily		
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota		
			, , ,		
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6		
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily		
			,		
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily		
			. ,		

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA	(ROP)

UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) 7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7 7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	
0Z626	2:10am	6:00am	1	
0Z626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1. 4. 5. 7	

Daily

Daily

SAIPAN-	Shangh <i>i</i>	AI (PVG)					
3110640	5.40am	Q./10am	1	Λ	5	7	

4:45am 8:30am

4:00pm 7:45pm

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) ID396 7:30am 12:00nm JD396 4:50pm 10:00pm

7C3403

7C3401

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am

SAIPAN-BE	IJING (PEK)	
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MA	ANILA (I	MNL)	
0Z626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
0Z626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4		
0Z626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		
0Z626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7		
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA6395 7:15am 8:05am 1, 4, 5, 7 UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm UA6390 2, 3, 6 via Rota 12:10pm 1:50pm UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

2, 3, 6

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

12:10pm 12:45pm UA6390 2, 3, 6

KUTA (KU	JP)-SAIP#	4IN	
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	

DI 208

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily				
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN							

	· / -			
7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4	
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7	

SEOUL	(ICN)-SAIP	AN	
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
0Z625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
0Z625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7

П	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN
ч	

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

П	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 4:25pm 12:30am+1 2, 4, 6

MANILA (N			
UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
11/18/1/6305	10.55nm	Q.05am i 1	1 3 / 6 7 via CIIM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN 1:00am+1 0Z722/625 1:15pm 7 via ICN 0Z722/625 1:15pm 1:40am+11, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN HX076 5:15pm 12:15am+1 3,7 U042 1:45am+16:50pm U042 9:30pm 4:25am+12, 4, 6 UA116/6395 11:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan (1), Saturday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6), Saturday (7); 3U Sichuan (1), Saturday (8), Saturday (9), Saturday (9),Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

		S	TAR MARIA	NAS AIR	R, INC.		
SAIPAN T FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1204 1205 1206 1207 1208 1209	10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM 3:00PM	10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM 3:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
ROTA TO FLIGHT # 3101	SAIPAN DEPARTURE 8:15AM	ARRIVAL 8:45AM	FREQUENCY Daily	1210 1211 1212	4:00PM 5:00PM 6:00PM	4:15PM 5:15PM 6:15PM	Daily Daily Daily
3102 3103	1:45PM 4:45PM	2:15PM 5:15PM	Daily Daily	FLIGHT#	O SAIPAN DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
ROTA TO FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2102 2103 2104 2105	7:30AM 8:30AM 9:30AM 10:30AM	7:45AM 8:45AM 9:45AM 10:45AM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
GUAM TO FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2106 2107 2108 2109	11:30AM 12:30PM 1:30PM 2:30PM	11:45AM 12:45PM 1:45PM 2:45PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
SAIPAN T FLIGHT # 1201 1202 1203	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM 9:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM 9:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	2110 2111 2112 2113	3:30PM 4:30PM 5:30PM 6:30PM	3:45PM 4:45PM 5:45PM 6:45PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 **13** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

China raises tariffs on US pork, fruit in trade dispute

raised import duties on a \$3 billion list of U.S. pork, fruit and other products Monday

in an escalating tariff dispute with President Donald Trump that companies worry might depress global commerce.

Advice on transferring with your company

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.you-

rofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

: After eight years with the same company, I'm feeling discouraged about my future. My first boss was great, but I've had a difficult time working with my last two managers. Both of them gave me negative performance reviews, and I did not receive a pay increase.

Because of these issues, I have been applying for positions in other departments. With more than 20 years' experience in my field, I am more than qualified for these lateral moves. However, I have not even been granted one interview.

I think the problem is that I am over 50 and lack a college degree. Our human resources manager insists that this makes no difference, vet no one will consider me for a transfer. I have started looking outside the company, but don't particularly want to leave. Do you have any advice?

A: Although age and education sometimes present obstacles, I don't believe that's the difficulty here. Like many people faced with rejection, you are attributing the cause to factors beyond your control. While this natural tendency helps to protect self-esteem, it can also keep you from addressing critical issues.

Based on your description, the obvious barrier to a lateral move is your recent history of poor performance reviews. When someone applies for a transfer, the hiring manager naturally wants to learn about their background. With a record of negative appraisals and adverse management relationships, you could easily appear to be an unnecessary risk.

However, the good news is that, unlike age, this is a problem you may actually be able to solve. The first step is to clarify expectations with your boss and agree on a plan for meeting them. You might also consult with the HR manager, who should have already pointed out this issue.

Although changing perceptions takes time, once you are viewed as both capable and cooperative, your odds of transferring will greatly increase. But if this transformation seems too difficult, or if your reputation is damaged beyond repair, then a fresh start might be advisable, as long as you avoid repeating the same mistakes.

Q: After taking a break to raise my kids, I recently returned to work as a salesperson in a clothing store. To my surprise, I actually love this job and enjoy helping women find flattering outfits. My only complaint is that I hate pressuring customers to sign up for our store-branded credit card.

Previously, we simply offered the card, then dropped the subject if the customer declined. But now management is bringing in a representative from the credit card company to coach us on how to increase our sign-ups. Why are we being forced to do this?

A: The short answer to your question is "money", because branded credit cards can produce a great deal of revenue. The pressure to sell them starts at the top, then trickles down to managers and staff. Since you are now receiving sales training, you will undoubtedly be pushing cards for quite awhile.

At this point, you appear to have two options. Either develop a comfortable selling strategy which is successful enough to satisfy your manager or find another employer who sells clothes, but not cards.



Imported nuts from the United States are displayed for sale at a supermarket in Beijing, Monday, April

The Finance Ministry said it was responding to a U.S. tariff hike on steel and aluminum that took effect March 23. But a bigger clash looms over Trump's approval of possible higher duties on nearly \$50 billion of Chinese goods in a separate argument over technology policy.

The tariff spat is one aspect of wide-ranging tensions between Washington and Beijing over China's multibilliondollar trade surplus with the United States and its policies on technology, industry development and access to its statedominated economy.

Forecasters say the immediate impact should be limited, but investors worry the global recovery might be set back if it prompts other governments to raise import barriers. Those fears temporarily depressed financial markets, though stocks have recovered some of their losses.

On Monday, stock market indexes in Tokyo and Shanghai were up 0.5 percent at midmorning.

Beijing faces complaints by Washington, the European Union and other trading partners that it hampers market access despite its free-trading pledges and is flooding global markets with improperly low-priced steel and aluminum. But the EU, Japan and other governments criticized Trump's unilateral move as disruptive.

The United States buys little Chinese steel and aluminum following earlier tariff hikes to offset what Washington says is improper subsidies. Still, economists expected Beijing to respond to avoid looking weak in a high-profile dispute.

Effective Monday, Beijing raised tariffs on pork, aluminum scrap and some other products by 25 percent, the Finance Ministry said. A 15 percent tariff was imposed on apples, almonds and some other goods.

The tariff hike has "has seriously damaged our interests," said a Finance Ministry statement.

'Our country advocates and supports the multilateral trading system," said the statement. China's tariff increase "is a proper measure adopted by our country using World Trade Organization rules to protect our interests."

The White House didn't respond to a message from The Associated Press on Sunday seeking comment.

China's government said earlier its imports of those goods last year totaled \$3 billion.

The latest Chinese move targets farm areas, many of which voted for Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

U.S. farmers sent nearly \$20 billion of goods to China in 2017. The American pork industry sent \$1.1 billion in products, making China the No. 3 market for U.S. pork.

"American politicians better realize sooner rather than later that China would never submit if the U.S. launched a trade war," said the Global Times, a newspaper published by the ruling Communist Party.

Washington granted EU, South Korea and some other exporters, but not ally Japan, exemptions to the steel and aluminum tariffs on March 22. European governments had threatened to retaliate by raising duties on American bourbon, peanut butter and other goods.

Beijing has yet to say how it might respond to Trump's March 22 order approving possible tariff hikes in response to complaints China steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

Trump says he wants skilled migrants but creates new hurdles

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

It may be a while before President Donald Trump gets another chance at creating a new, "merit-based" immigration system, a keystone of his four-part plan that Congress rejected last month. In the meantime, his administration is busy making it harder, not easier, for skilled migrants to come work in the United States.

The State Department has ended an Obama-era program to grant visas to foreign entrepreneurs who want to start companies in the United States. It is more aggressively scrutinizing visas to skilled workers from other countries. And it is contemplating ending a provision that allows spouses of those skilled workers to be employed in the U.S.

The administration and its backers contend it's trying to fix flaws in the existing, employer-centric skilled immigration system while advocating for a complete overhaul of America's immigration system.

"The stuff that they're actually doing is not so much restricting skilled immigration as enforcing the law," said Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports reducing immigration. "They're rolling back some of the extralegal measures that other administrations have taken.

A primary avenue for skilled immigrants to enter the United States is the H1B visa for specialty workers, which is heavily used by the technology industry. About 85,000 visas are issued annually in a lottery system. Some critics argue they are a way for companies to avoid hiring U.S. citizens; Trump himself has said H1B recipients shouldn't even be considered skilled.

In 2016, two technology workers sued Disney, alleging 250 U.S. employees were laid off and many were forced to train replacements who were hired on H1B visas. A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit, saying Disney was following existing immigration laws.

The Trump administration has increased its scrutiny of H1B applications, requiring renewals be submitted in person and asking for additional proof the workers are needed and are being paid top tier.

This increase reflects our commitment to protecting the integrity of the immigration system," said Joanne Fereirra, a spokeswoman for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. She added that 92.5 percent of the visas are still approved, only two percentage points lower than under the Obama administration in 2016.

Still, businesses have noticed a change.

"We've got employees that are going through the process, who have gone through such a level of scrutiny and interrogatory that is unprecedented," said Dean Garfield, president of the Information Technology Industry Council, which advocates for H1B visas and has had one of its own workers have to move back overseas because of delays in approving the requisite visa.

The extra time with H1B visas is only part of the administration's changes to skilled, work-based immigration.

Last year, Trump signed an executive order that directed all government agencies to "rigorously enforce and administer the laws governing entry into the United States of workers from abroad" to ensure the maximum number of U.S. citizens have jobs. The order also called for shifting H1Bs from lowerpaid workers to higher-paid ones who truly have skills that can't be obtained from the native workforce.

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Nation

Trump says deal for young immigrants is 'NO MORE'

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)— President Donald Trump has declared "NO MORE" to a deal to help "Dreamer" immigrants and threatened to pull out of a free trade agreement with Mexico unless it does more to stop people from crossing into the U.S. He claimed they're coming to take advantage of protections granted certain immigrants.

MORE DACA DEAL!" Trump tweeted Sunday, one hour after he began the day by wishing his followers a "HAPPY EASTER!"

He said Mexico must "stop the big drug and people flows, or I will stop their cash cow, NAFTA. NEED WALL!" The U.S., Canada and Mexico are participating in tense negotiations over the North American Free Trade Agreement at Trump's insistence. Trump says NAFTA is bad for the U.S.

"Mexico has got to help us at the border," Trump, holding his wife's hand, told reporters before the couple attended Easter services at an Episcopal church near his Palm Beach home. "If they're not going to help us at the border, it's a very sad thing between our two countries.'

"A lot of people are coming in because they want to take advantage of DACA," he added.

Former President Barack Obama created the Deferred



Action for Childhood Arrivals program to provide temporary protection and work permits to hundreds of thousands of immigrants who are living in the U.S. illegally after being brought here as children. Trump ended the program last year, but gave Congress six months to pass legislation enshrining it. A deal has so far proved elusive and Trump has blamed Democrats.

It was not immediately clear what Trump was referring to when he said people are coming to take advantage of the program.

The Department of Homeland Security is not issuing new permits, though existing ones can be renewed. The Obama administration allowed signups during a set period of time, and the program is closed to new entrants.

crafted by lawmakers and rejected by Trump also were not open to new participants.

Trump did not explain what he meant when questioned by reporters as he entered the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea with the first lady and his daughter Tiffany. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for clarification.

Trump, when addressing Proposed DACA deals reporters briefly before enterwe'll have to take a look because Mexico has got to help us at the border. They flow right through Mexico. They send them into the United States. It can't happen that way anymore."

President Donald Trump and

first lady Melania Trump arrive

for Easter services at Episcopal

Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea

in Palm Beach, Fla., Sunday,

had a great, great chance, but

April 1, 2018.

Trump promised during the 2016 presidential campaign to build a Southern border wall to stop illegal immigration and drugs from Mexico, but Congress has frustrated him by not moving as quickly as he wants to provide money for construction.

The president also complained on Twitter that border patrol agents can't do their jobs properly because of "ridiculous liberal (Democrat) laws" that allow people caught for being in the country illegally to be released while they await a hearing before a federal immigration judge.

MENDOCINO, Calif.

ing the church, again blamed

Democrats for failing to pro-

"They had a great chance.

The Democrats blew it. They

tect the "Dreamers."

large, free-spirited family from Washington state accelerated straight off a scenic California cliff and authorities said Sunday night the deadly wreck may have been intentional.

Information pulled from

Five members of the Hart family were found dead. The search continued for three more children believed to have been in the vehicle when it went over a coastal overlook and landed on rocks in the Pacific Ocean below. The missing children may have been washed out to sea, authorities say.

"This specific location is very difficult to search because the ocean currents and

CHP: Deadly SUV cliff crash may have been intentional

(AP)—An SUV carrying a

the vehicle's software shows it was stopped at a flat, dirt pull-off area before it sped off the steep rocky face and plunged 100 feet, said Capt. Greg Baarts with the California Highway Patrol Northern Division. Speaking at an evening news conference Baarts said the electronic information combined with the lack of skid marks or signs the driver braked led authorities to believe the crash was purposeful.

tides are strong, it's unpredictable, and the murkiness of the water makes it difficult to see," said Capt. Greg Van Patten, a spokesman for the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Known as the Hart Tribe, the multiracial family of two married women-Sarah and Jennifer Hart—and six adopted children often took spontaneous road trips to camp and hike and traveled to festivals and other events, offering hugs and promoting unity.

Authorities don't know exactly when the wreck took place. A passing motorist discovered the vehicle on March 26, three days after social service authorities in Washington state opened an investigation apparently prompted by a neighbor's complaint that the children were being deprived of food. Authorities believe at least one felony was committed but Van Patten declined to specify.

Well before the wreck, Sarah Hart pleaded guilty in 2011 to a domestic assault charge in Douglas County, Minnesota, telling authorities "she let her anger get out of control" while spanking her 6-year-old adopted daughter, court records show.

White House goes on attack over Shulkin's claim he was fired

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House is hitting back at former Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin for claiming that he was fired from his job and that he was only informed about it shortly before President Donald Trump tweeted about his replacement.

The Trump administration says he left his job willingly amid a bruising ethics scandal and mounting rebellion within the agency. The semantics of whether Shulkin resigned or was fired could be relevant to Trump's ability to name an acting VA secretary to temporarily fill his place.

On Sunday, chagrined by Shulkin's public statements blaming his ouster on unfair "political forces" in the Trump administration, the White House circulated a "talking points" memo to some veterans groups in a bid to discredit him. The three-page memo, obtained by The Associated Press, points out seven "lies" that it said Shulkin had spread. They include statements in which he minimizes a VA watchdog report in February

that concluded he violated ethics rules by accepting free Wimbledon tennis tickets. The VA inspector general has previously found Shulkin made misleading statements about the trip to investigators and the news media.

In television interviews earlier Sunday, Shulkin said he had not submitted a resignation letter, or planned to, and was only told of Trump's decision to replace him with White House doctor Ronny Jackson shortly before the Twitter announcement last Wednesday. He said he had spoken to Trump by phone earlier that day about VA improvements, with no mention of his job status, and was scheduled to meet with the president the next morning.

"I came to run the Department of Veterans Affairs because I'm committed to veterans," Shulkin said. "And I would not resign because I'm committed to making sure this job was seen through to the very end."

Last week, Trump named Defense Department official Robert Wilkie to the

acting position, bypassing Shulkin's deputy secretary, Tom Bowman. Bowman has come under criticism for being too moderate to push Trump's agenda.

Under federal law, a president has wide authority to temporarily fill a federal agency job if someone "dies, resigns, or is otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office." There is no mention of a president having that authority if the person is fired. Still, it's unclear if courts would seek to draw a legal distinction between a firing and a forced resignation, if that is indeed what happened to Shulkin.

The day after announcing he was replacing Shulkin, Trump told a rally in Richfield, Ohio, that he had been dissatisfied with efforts to improve the VA. Shulkin had enjoyed Trump's support for much of his first year in the administration, but that eroded in February after mounting ethics questions and political infighting at the VA.

Wilkie, now listed on the VA website as acting secretary, took over Shulkin's duties last week.

The back and forth over the circumstances behind Shulkin's departure - and what it could mean for Wilkie's status - comes as the nomination of Jackson is drawing concern among lawmakers and veterans groups. They worry the Navy rear admiral and lifelong physician lacks the experience to manage an enormous agency paralyzed over Trump's push to expand private care.

Trump's new Cabinet nominees also are beginning to pile up in the Senate, likely leading to weeks of confirmation battles and other delays in the run-up to congressional midterm elections in November. That could mean an extended reign for an acting VA secretary.

On Sunday, Shulkin, who had previously recommended Jackson to be VA undersecretary of health, repeatedly demurred when asked to fully endorse Jackson for the job of VA secretary. He noted the complexity of running the government's second-largest department.

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Asia

China space lab mostly burns up on re-entry in south Pacific

BEIJING (AP)—China's defunct Tiangong 1 space station mostly burned up on re-entry Monday into the atmosphere over the central South Pacific, Chinese space authorities said.

The experimental space laboratory re-entered around 8:15 a.m. Beijing time, the China Manned Space Engineering Office said.

Scientists monitoring the craft's disintegrating orbit had forecast the craft would mostly burn up and would pose only the slightest of risks to people. Analysis from the Beijing Aerospace Control Center showed it had mostly burned up.

Brad Tucker, an astrophysicist at Australian National University, said Tiangong 1's re-entry was "mostly successful" and that it would have been better if the space station had not been spinning toward Earth.

"It could have been better obviously, if it wasn't tumbling, but it landed in the Southern Pacific Ocean and that's kind of where you hope it would land," Tucker said.

"It's been tumbling and spinning for a while, which means that when it really starts to come down it's less predictable about what happens to it," Tucker said. He likened it to an airplane landing, saying it's more difficult to predict where a plane that is "shaking around"



and moving" will land than one that is smoothly descending.

Launched in 2011, Tiangong 1 was China's first space station, serving as an experimental platform for bigger projects, such as the Tiangong 2 launched in September 2016 and a future permanent Chinese space station.

Two crews of Chinese astronauts lived on the station while testing docking procedures and other operations. Its last crew departed in 2013 and contact with it was cut in 2016.

Since then, it has orbited gradually closer and closer to Earth on its own while being monitored.

Earlier forecasts had said only about 10 percent of the bus-sized, 8.5-ton spacecraft would likely survive re-entry, mainly its heavier components such as its engines.

"The biggest takeaway from this is that as we put more things into space, all countries, we have to be aware that we do have to plan for these sorts of issues that are happening," Tucker said.

Roger Thompson, senior engineering specialist with the Aerospace Corporation in Virginia, said modeling of Tiangong 1's re-entry by monitors in the U.S. had been highly accurate, leaving him feeling "great" about their predictions.

"We believe it was an uncontrolled entry," Thompson said, adding that the corporation's own estimate had been just 15 minutes behind the time announced by China.

The lack of control was not unusual given that about 15 percent of satellites re-enter the atmosphere prior to the end of their useful lives, he said.

The corporation, which provides technical support for the space industry, had not been in touch with the Chinese side about the re-entry, Thompson said.

China's foreign and defense ministries said the country had relayed information about Tiangong 1's return to earth In this Nov. 16, 2010 file photo, visitors sit beside a model of China's Tiangong-1 space station at the 8th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai in southern China's Guangdong Province. China's defunct Tiangong 1 space station is expected to reenter Earth's atmosphere within the next day.

to the United Nations' space agency and others.

Debris from satellites, space launches and the International Space Station enters the atmosphere every few months, but only one person is known to have been hit by any of it: American woman Lottie Williams, who was struck but not injured by a falling piece of a U.S. Delta II rocket while exercising in an Oklahoma park in 1997.

Most famously, America's 77-ton Skylab crashed through the atmosphere in 1979, spreading pieces of wreckage near the southwestern Australia city of Perth, which fined the U.S. \$400 for littering.

Tiangong 1, whose name translates as "Heavenly Palace," had two modules, one for its solar panels and engines, and one for a pair of astronauts to live in and conduct experiments. A third astronaut slept in the Shenzhou spaceships that docked with the station, which also contained facilities for personal hygiene and food preparation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malala ending 1st visit to Pakistan since shooting

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai on Monday was ending her first visit to Pakistan since being shot in 2012 by Taliban militants who tried to kill her for promoting girls' education in the country's northwestern. A smiling Yousafzai was seen with her parents at Benazir Bhutto International Airport before they boarded a plane to return to London after the four-day visit. Amid tight security, Yousafzai in a convoy of vehicles left her hotel in Islamabad, where she stayed for four days. Touching scenes were witnessed when the now-20-yearold university student left her hotel, thanking Pakistani officials for giving her an army helicopter to see her home in the northwest town of Mingora in the Swat Valley. After visiting Mingora on Saturday, Yousafzai in a tweet said it was "the most beautiful place on earth" for her. "So much joy seeing my family home, visiting friends and putting my feet on this soil again," said, as she posted a picture of her, showing her standing at her home's lawn with her father, mother and brothers.

Vietnam, China urge restraint in disputes in S. China Sea

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam and China on Sunday called for restraint in resolving disputes in the South China Sea. Speaking to reporters at a joint press briefing with his Chinese counterpart, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh said the two countries should manage the disputes and not expand

them. "We propose that the two sides in the coming time should seriously implement the mutual understandings of leaders (of two countries) ... well manage disputes, do not have activities that complicate and expand disputes, respect the legitimate rights and interests of each other in accordance with international laws," Minh said. For his part, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said "settling maritime disputes is very important for the healthy and stable development of bilateral relations."

Thais help boat with presumed Rohingya refugees back to sea

BANGKOK (AP)—A boat with 56 people claiming to be Muslim Rohingya refugees from Myanmar was helped back to sea by Thai fishermen and navy craft after being damaged in a storm and stopping temporarily Sunday in southern Thailand. Adisorn Chormai, a local official in Thailand's Krabi province told The Associated Press that those aboard, who moored at an island there, said they were seeking to go to Malaysia when their boat was damaged Sunday morning. "We found that they have been traveling for about 23 days from Rakhine to escape their situation in Myanmar," he said. About 700,000 Rohingya have fled western Myanmar's Rakhine state to neighboring Bangladesh since a brutal counterinsurgency campaign by Myanmar's army launched after Rohingya militants staged attacks on security forces last August. Rohingya, treated as undesirables in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar, used to flee by sea by the thousands each year.

Facebook picture helps Afghan woman achieve dream of college

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—With three children under the age of five and a husband who could neither read nor write, 25-year-old Jahantap Ahmadi dreamed of going to college. Her high school degree was enough to become a teacher at the only elementary school in her village in central Afghanistan—in an open field—but she wanted more.

On March 15, cheered on by her husband, Jahantap set out for the Daikundi provincial capital of Nili to take the university entrance exam. She walked until her feet were blistered and bruised and then sat for 10 hours with her infant daughter, Khezran, cradled on her lap in a rickety bus over rugged rocky roads. Once in Nili, she took the exam and scored a respectable 152 out of a possible 200.

But it was a picture of Jahantap posted on Facebook, sitting cross-legged on the classroom floor, her 2-month-old baby asleep on her lap as she took the exam, that made the dream of going to college come true. A teacher in Nili who was

moved by Jahantap's determination to get an education posted pictures on Facebook. In Afghanistan, where women still struggle for even the most basic of rights, it went viral.

"My brother who was working in Kabul called me and said 'I saw your picture in Facebook," she said in an interview in Kabul where she is now enrolled at a private university. "I wanted to get my education, so I could help my village, change my village. I want to help my society. But first I wanted it for my children, so one day they could be educated."

Nearly 17 years after the overthrow of the Taliban government, which outlawed women's education, an estimated 6 million children are in school in Afghanistan and a third of them are girls. However, most girls don't study beyond elementary school, and of the 3.5 million Afghan children who have never gone to school, 75 percent are girls, according to the 2017 annual report of the United Nations Children's Fund, which was

released in February.

Zahra Yagana, who runs a small non-governmental organization that provides awareness of the environment and the value of education, said the picture of Jahantap on the floor, while other students sat at desks, inspired her to get Jahantap to Kabul and into a university.

"Life is still very difficult for women in Afghanistan. We need the international community to stay for 50 or 100 years to change things here for women," said Yagana.

"When I saw the picture of Jahantap on Facebook, I was so impressed," she said. "Right away the next day I wrote a story about her, but I thought we have to do something for her, help her get her education. She inspired me."

Yagana went to the government and recruited Farkhunda Zahra Naderi, a senior adviser to President Ashraf Ghani, as well as Sarwar Danish, a vice president. Naderi is paying Jahantap's university tuition and Danish will pay the rent on the family's home in Kabul.

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World

Same-sex marriage supporter easily wins Costa Rica elections

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—Voters gave a resounding no to an upstart evangelical pastor who rose to political prominence by campaigning against same-sex marriage, allowing Costa Rica's governing party to win an easy presidential victory.

While polls had indicated Sunday's runoff would be tight, it was not even close. Carlos Alvarado, a novelist and former Cabinet minister running for the ruling Citizen Action Party, won by a wide margin.

The Supreme Electoral Council said that with 95 percent of ballots counted late Sunday, Carlos Alvarado had 60.8 percent of the votes, and evangelical Fabricio Alvarado of the National Restoration party had 39.2 percent. The two men are not related.

Fabricio Alvarado had been viewed as political also-ran when he entered the presidential contest, though he enjoyed high name recognition for his evangelism and for working on one of Costa Rica's main TV newscasts. But then he spoke out strongly against a call by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for Costa Rica to allow same-sex marriage and he finished first in the election's first round in February.

Carlos Alvarado, who finished second to get the final spot in the runoff, spoke in favor of letting gays wed.

The victor wrote in his Twit-



Mexico candidate fights ruling party's tarnished image

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Jose Antonio Meade's race for Mexico's presidency so far has looked more like a slog through mud—a struggle to free himself from the scandal-stained reputation of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party that chose the seemingly apolitical economist as its standard-bearer.

A string of governors from the party have been imprisoned—some after fleeing the country as fugitives—or are under investigation for corruption, and many Mexicans blame the party known as the PRI for failure to halt the growth of violence across much of the country. So Meade, a man who has worked in Cabinet for presidents of two different parties, is stressing his own, relatively untarnished record.

"I'm the candidate," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And there is not just the perception, but the certainty of 20 years of an honest and transparent life and an honorable trajectory." So far, with the election three months away, that hasn't been enough. Nearly all polls say Meade is running third, favored by less than 20 percent of likely voters.

"Mexico's long-dominant Institutional Revolutionary Party is now so linked with corruption that it may be hobbled in the 2018 national elections," the U.S. Congressional Research Service wrote in a March analysis.

Meade argues that all the country's parties have a similar bad image and says he is the best-equipped candidate to tackle corruption. He has proposed eliminating presidents' immunity against prosecution, increasing the autonomy of the Attorney General's Office and seizing the property of politicians found to be corrupt.

"To take on corruption what we have to do is give more tools to the government, and the only one who has put forward a serious proposal about this topic is me," Meade said.

This is the first time that the PRI, the dominant force

in Mexican politics for most of the past century, has ever named a non-member as its presidential candidate. The choice was widely seen as the only good option for a party tainted by scandals.

It's also the first time Meade, 49, has ever run for public office, though his father - also a long-time government administrator - served a term in congress for the PRI.

The lack of stump-speech experience shows. His speaking style often reflects his policy wonk background as a Yale-educated economist who also has a law degree.

Meade served in a series of bureaucratic posts before joining the Cabinet of President Felipe Calderon, a member of the conservative National Action Party, as energy secretary in 2011 and as treasury secretary a year later. Incoming PRI President Enrique Pena Nieto kept Meade on as the head of foreign affairs, then social services, and finally the treasury again.

Meade had left his job as Mexico's top diplomat before the election of U.S. President Donald Trump, whose repeated criticisms of Mexico and Mexicans have strained ties and whose demand for a renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement has created economic uncertainty.

If he wins, Meade said, he will seek dialogue at all levels of government to preserve a relationship that is deeper than many believe and that goes beyond topics such as the current renegotiation of NAFTA, which Trump has said is unfair to the U.S.

NAFTA doesn't anchor the relationship, Meade said. "The infrastructure anchors it, the communication links anchor it, the business ties, the investments."

He also said he would continue to work with the U.S. on security issues, a key part of the current bilateral relationship, but added that Mexico has to look to itself for solutions. "The challenge is our challenge," he said.

Costa Rica newly elected president Carlos Alvarado of the Citizen Action Party gives his winning speech after being declared the winner of the presidential election runoff in San Jose, Costa Rica, Sunday, April 1, 2018.

ter account, "Let's celebrate our 200 years of Independence with a government worthy and up to date with the times."

"Today, the world is watching us and we sent a beautiful democratic message."

In a speech to supporters, Fabricio Alvarado conceded defeat but said he raised the banner of "principles and values."

"We are not sad, because we made history, because our message touched the country's deepest nerves," he said.

Andrea Rodriguez, who

voted in a suburb of San Jose, the capital, expressed what a lot of Costa Ricans apparently felt, saying she backed Carlos Alvarado.

"I want a country in which we all have the same rights," Rodriguez said. "It's not fair that they keep discriminating, above all because they want to impose religious ideas."

The two candidates shared similarities beyond their family name. Both have backgrounds in journalism and both have recorded music—Fabricio Alvarado as a gospel singer and Carlos Alvarado as a college-age rock 'n' roller.

Both candidates also had economic advisers who take a conservative approach to economics, favoring the free market and calling for a reduction in the size of government.

Hearts ache, anger surges after Siberian mall fire kills 64

KEMEROVO, Russia (AP)—Trapped inside a movie theater at a burning shopping center, 11-year-old Vika Pochankina made a panicked phone call to her aunt. "I'm suffocating. Tell Mama that I loved her," the girl said.

Yevgenia Pochankina told her niece to cover her nose with her clothes to fend off the smoke.

"After a moment, she disconnected," the aunt told The Associated Press.

The deaths of 64 people—including 41 children—in a Siberian shopping center fire on March 25 have tormented their loved ones, bringing not only grief over those they lost but deep dismay about the state of life in Russia.

Relatives of the dead—and many others in Russia—ask why the shopping center's emergency exits were locked, why the mall's fire alarms didn't sound, whether the center ever met building standards or if inspectors were bribed to turn a blind eye to deficiencies.

Living in Kemerovo, a Siberian city 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles) east of Moscow, they are hurt and angry over what they see as official callousness after the fire. The regional governor didn't visit the scene, President Vladimir Putin didn't declare a national day of mourning until two days after the fire, and officials have dismissed their protests over the blaze as political opportunism.

"This tragedy reflects all

of Russia's problems - the corruption of officials who closed their eyes to problems with fire safety, uncoordinated work of the special services, the imperviousness of authorities," said Rasim Yaraliyev, head of a citizen's group pressing for answers about the fire.

Vika was one of six schoolchildren from the village of Treshchevsky who had traveled 45 kilometers (30 miles) that day to Kemerovo, a trip rewarding them for being good students. As they sat in the theater watching an animated film, a fire broke out in the four-story Winter Cherry mall.

Vika and her classmates were among the dead. Teacher Oksana Yevseyeva, the trip's chaperone, had left the children to watch the movie themselves in the theater while she did some shopping. She was on the first floor when the fire broke out above.

"I begged the guards to give me a mask and let me in to the children when the fire started, but they said there is smoke everywhere, you will just die," she said.

Igor Vostrikov, whose wife, three daughters and a sister died in the fire, told the AP that investigators had let him see him CCTV footage from outside the movie theater, showing that the entrance doors to the room where they died were locked by a man who possibly was trying to keep the smoke out until a rescue team arrived.

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Focus

EMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)— Clara Ester's eyes were fixed on the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as he stood on the concrete balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

King was in Memphis to support a sanitation workers' strike, and Ester, a college student, had been marching alongside the strikers as they sought better pay and working conditions. She and some friends had gone to the motel for a catfish dinner when she saw King chatting happily, not far from where she stood.

Then Ester heard the shot. It was 6:01 p.m. on April 4, 1968.

"I'm still looking at him," Ester recalled. "He looked like he was lifted up and thrown back on the pavement. Next thing I remember, I was stepping over his body, and I'm noticing that he's struggling for air."

King's death changed the world and altered the lives of those who lived through it. Some would spend the rest of their lives fighting for racial equality and economic justice. Others, including Ester, would struggle to come to terms with what they saw.

King had won victories on desegregation and voting rights and had been planning his Poor People's Campaign when he turned his attention to Memphis, the gritty city by the Mississippi River.

On Feb. 1, 1968, two sanitation workers were crushed when a garbage truck compactor malfunctioned, sparking a strike by about 1,300 black sanitation workers weary of horrible working conditions and racist treatment in the dirtiest of municipal jobs. The words that would come to signify their protest - "I Am a Man" - were not a given with everyone in Memphis at that time.

"We didn't have a place to shower, wash our hands, nothing," said Elmore Nickleberry, who at 86 still drives a truck for the department.

King tried to lead a peaceful march on March 28, but it turned violent. Storefront windows were smashed, and police wielded clubs and tear gas.

King went back to Atlanta but vowed to return to show that non-violent protest still worked. Criticism mounted in the press. He was suffering headaches and feeling depressed. He met with his advisers, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said, and "talked himself out of the depression."



Martin Luther King Jr. with his aides, from left, Hosea Williams, Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy at the Lorraine Motel on

Witnesses forever changed by MIK'S FINAL DAYS

By ADRIAN SAINZ and KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

He flew back to Memphis on the morning of April 3.

Mike Cody was among the lawyers working to persuade a judge to lift an injunction against a new march who met with King in his motel room.

"King felt strongly that unless he could get a success here in Memphis, with these workers using nonviolent, civil disobedience, then he would never get the Poor People's March in Washington that summer," said Cody, 82.

Cody was in the crowd later that evening at the Mason Temple. Though King was ill, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy asked him to address the thousands who turned out despite a thunderstorm.

"It's a tin roof, so that's banging. There's rafters up there above us, and the rafters are blowing with the wind and hitting each other and hitting the walls from the fierceness of the wind and the rain," said the Rev. James Lawson, a prominent civil rights activist.

With little preparation, King delivered a speech that, in retrospect, seemed to foretell his death: "Well, I don't know what will happen now; we've got some difficult days ahead.

But it really doesn't matter to me now, because I've been to the mountaintop."

When he finished, King slumped into a chair. He looked to Cody like a "toy that had the air taken out of it.'

"Ministers, men were crying," Jackson said.

Cody went to court the next day with King aide Andrew Young, then dropped Young back at the Lorraine Motel in the late afternoon.

King had spent most of the day in meetings. He asked

Young where he'd been and then threw a pillow at him. "Then everybody picked up pillows and beat me up," Young said. "All of us were in our 30s, and we were acting like 10-, 12-year-olds. But it was the happiest I had seen him in a long time."

As dinner approached, King and his friends moved to the motel balcony. King turned to a bandleader who was standing nearby and made a request: Later, could he play his favorite song, "Take My

In this Feb. 14, 2018 photo, the Rev. Jesse Jackson stands on the motel balcony where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn. on April 4, 1968.

Hand, Precious Lord"?

Then: "Pow! A bullet," recalled Jackson, pointing to the right side of his own face.

"At first I thought it was a firecracker or car backfiring," Young said.

Jackson ran toward the balcony steps.

"Someone said, 'Doc has been shot,' and 'Get low,' Jackson said.

Earl Caldwell, a New York Times reporter who had interviewed King on the balcony the previous day, ran out of his motel room in his boxer shorts. "I was thinking, 'It was a bomb. It was a bomb.' Because the noise was greater than a gun," he said.

A photo shows Jackson, Young and others pointing across the street, where the shot came from.

"I remember Rev. Abernathy saying, 'Back up, back up, this is my dearest friend. Martin you can't give up, don't leave us," Jackson said.

Ester said she noticed King's tie had been blown off. His eyes were open "with almost a pleasant expression on his face," she said.

Sirens blared. People screamed. Police rushed to the motel.

King was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital, where college student John Billings worked as a surgical assistant on the night shift.

"Three doctors came over and walked to where I was standing. They said, 'OK Billings, go find somebody in charge and tell them that Dr. King has expired," he said.

Billings was then ordered to stay with King's body until someone could come get him.

"I walked over, pulled the sheet back, and there he was," Billings said. "His eyes were closed. I thought, 'How strange this is."

Security was heavy when Dr. Jerry Francisco, the Shelby County medical examiner, arrived. Men holding shotguns stood inside and outside the room. After the 1½ hour autopsy, Francisco drove home through a city that had been placed under curfew, for fear of rioting.

"The streets were just virtually empty. I was the only car moving on the street," he said. It was eerie, he recalled.

Coby Smith, a leader of the Invaders organization, which had a militant reputation, vividly remembers the aftermath, when tanks rolled into neighborhoods, the National Guard was called in, and police began arresting blacks in the streets.

"(Police) had put tape over their badges," Smith said. "This was like a war."

Fifty years after King's assassination, Ester has trouble talking about the months that followed. Haunted by her memories, she left her hometown.

Billings, who is white, came to a new understanding of the struggle Southern blacks faced. He became a private investigator, met James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to killing King, and explored the notion that someone else had been involved.

Young became a congressman, ambassador to the United Nations and Atlanta's mayor.

Jackson ran for president twice, then stood in Grant Park in Chicago with tears streaming down his face after a black man was elected president in 2008.

Cody continued working in civil rights law in Memphis, eventually serving as a U.S. Attorney and Tennessee attorney general.

If King were alive today, "he'd be in people's face" about issues relating to race, poverty and inequality, Cody says.

"We're not past all of that history."

18 TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Good Housekeeping

Solar azaleas

create a heavenly storm in your landscape



TNS

Orange azaleas whether Florida flame like these or hybrids like the Solar series will combine well with dogwoods and other spring bloomers.

By NORMAN WINTER

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

olar storms have been in the news the past couple of weeks in an almost, 'the sky is falling,' scenario but it can be happening in your landscape, too, thanks to new Solar Flare and Solar Glow azaleas!

As spring arrives in the south first, I can tell you land-scapes are lighting up with what many consider one of the best of the best azalea bloom seasons ever. This dazzling show is thanks in part to the Rhododendron austrinum or Florida flame azaleas and their hybrids like Solar Flare and Solar Glow.

If you haven't heard of Solar Flare and Solar Glow yet it's OK; they are another incredible creation of Buddy Lee in Independence Louisiana, a horticultural hero who also brought us the Encore series of repeat blooming azaleas. You'll find them both in the Southern Living Plant Collection and Sunset Western Garden Collection.

Solar Flare and Solar Glow azaleas will mature at about 6 to 8 feet in height and 4 to 5 feet wide. They are cold har-

dy from zones 5 to 9 (-20) meaning much of the country can revel in their spring blooming beauty. Revel I did, with those planted outside my office when I was with the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah.

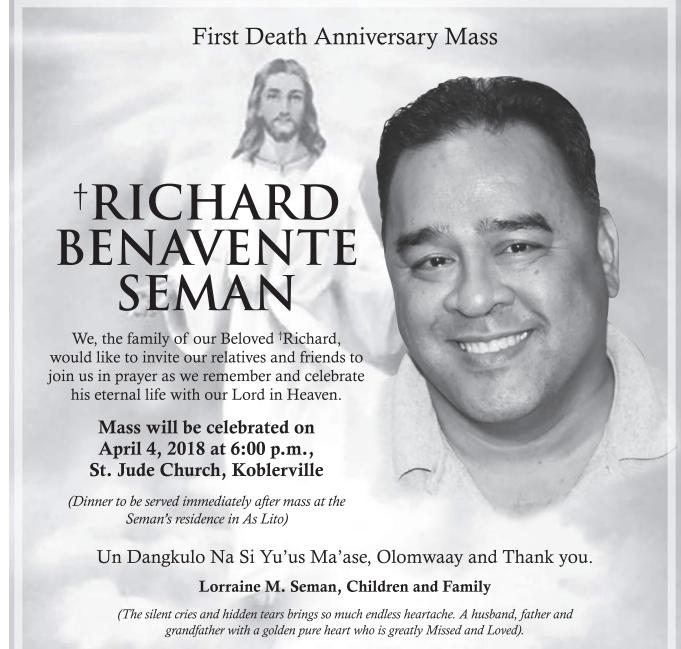
There is a sense of panic at my new house in Hamilton, Ga., and probably a lot of other places too as homeowners see azaleas blooming at the neighbors and realize we all need them, too. I'm talking I want Solar Azaleas, Encores, natives and other groups.

Azaleas must have very well drained, organic-rich, acidic soil. When we get heavy rain, we want the water to drain freely. This is such a critical issue that many experts even suggest planting them high so to speak where the top one inch of the rootball is above the soil profile, and add loose, organic material around it.

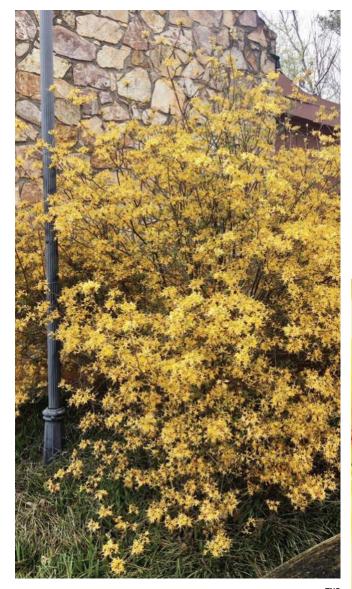
Azaleas are very shallow rooted plants. Considering that you are also planting high, in loose soil, you realize that azaleas are prone to drying out, especially those newly planted. Supplemental water will be needed. Mulch, which conserves moisture is an absolute.

You'll love the shocking colors of both the Solar Flare

Continued on Next Page



Solar Glow is a deciduous azalea reaching 6 to 8 feet tall boasting incredible orange shades.



Deciduous azaleas rival evergreen selections in flower power.



Solar Flare azalea not only offers dazzling colors but fragrance too.

and Solar Glow azaleas and relish the fact that they also have a honeysuckle fragrance and bring in butterflies and the first returning hummingbirds. You have to admit that is pretty hard to beat.

You might be wondering will orange whether a Solar azalea or Florida flame clash with the other colors in the spring garden and all I can say is no. No sight is more stunning than the orange azaleas combined with dogwoods, Louisiana or woodland phlox and purple azaleas like Autumn Royalty. Do this, and you will have created the Kodak moment.

No shrub can give your

landscape the WOW factor like azaleas and now is the time to prepare the beds and get several planted. And, by spreading our selections around from deciduous natives and their hybrids like the Solar series to evergreen repeat blooming Encores we can have a layered look in the garden ensuring our spring bloom extends all the way to fall.

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of, "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @Norman-WinterTheGardenGuy.





20 TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

NKorean leader Kim watches performance by SKorean pop stars

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un clapped his hands and said he was "deeply moved" as he, along with his wife and hundreds of other citizens, watched a rare performance by South Korean pop stars visiting Pyongyang. The concert highlights the thawing ties between the rivals after years of friction over the North's nuclear program.

During Sunday's performance at the packed 1,500seat East Pyongyang Grand Theater, North Korean concertgoers-most of the men in dark suits but some women in colorful traditional "hanbok" dresses-waved their hands from their seats when the South Korean stars joined together to sing a popular Korean song, "Our wish is unification." After the two-hour performance ended, the North Koreans gave a thundering standing ovation.

A South Korean artistic group, including some pop legends and the popular girl band Red Velvet, flew to Pyongyang over the weekend for two performances in the North Korean capital, one



on Sunday and the other on Tuesday. How North Koreans would react to Red Velvet was a focus of keen media attention in South Korea.

Kim, wearing a dark Maostyle suit, made a surprise visit

to the performance with his wife Ri Sol Ju, sister Kim Yo Jong and other senior North Korean officials, including nominal head of state Kim Yong Nam. Kim Jong Un applauded during the event and

shook hands with the South Korean performers. He also took a group photo with them after their performance, according to North Korea's state news agency and South Korean media pool reports from Pyongyang.

Kim "said that he was deeply moved to see our people sincerely acclaiming the performance, deepening the understanding of the popular art of the South side," the North's Korean Central News Agency said.

Short South Korean media pool footage showed Kim clapping from the second-floor VIP stand as South Korean Culture Minister Do Jong-hwan bowed and greeted North Korean spectators looking on from the first floor.

performance, deepening the "We should hold culture and understanding of the popuart performances frequent-

In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, right, talks to members of the South Korean artistic group, including the South's pop legends and popular girl band Red Velvet, after their performance in East Pyongyang Grand Theater in Pyongyang, North Korea, Sunday, April 1, 2018.

ly," Kim told South Korean performers. Mentioning the performance's title, "Spring comes," Kim also asked the performers to tell South Korean President Moon Jae-in that the two Koreas should hold a similar event in Seoul in the autumn, according to South Korean media pool reports.

Kim also talked about Red Velvet

"There had been interest in whether I would come and see Red Velvet. I had initially planned to attend a performance the day after tomorrow but I came here today after adjusting my schedule," Kim was quoted as saying. "I thank you for this kind of gift to Pyongyang's citizens."

It was the first time for a North Korean leader to attend such a South Korean performance in the North. During a past period of detente, South Korea occasionally sent pop singers to North Korea, but that stopped in 2005.

Harper Lee letters offer candid takes on religion, family

NEW YORK (AP)—Around the same time "To Kill a Mockingbird" made Harper Lee a best-selling author and Pulitzer Prize winner, she was still fighting for creative control.

"I must say it's increasingly difficult for magazine articles

to be written any other way than a magazine editor standing over your shoulder telling you what to write. You know how well that sets with me," the Monroeville, Alabama, native



Harper

Alabama, native wrote to her New York friend Harold Caufield (affectionately referred to as "Darling Aitch"). The 1961 letter—the year after the book was published—told of Esquire's turning down a piece she had been asked to write.

"I didn't confirm to their Image (or the one they wish to project) of the South. My pastiche had some white people who were segregationists & at the same time loathed & hated the K.K.K. This was an axiomatic impossibility, according to Esquire! I wanted to say that according to those lights, nine-tenths of the South is an axiomatic impossibility."

Lee's letter is among six donated to Emory University

by a California-based book collector and being made public Monday. The typed correspondence dates from the mid-1950s, when she began writing "Go Set a Watchman," the precursor to "Mocking-bird" that unexpectedly

came out in 2015, through the early '60s and the release of "Mockingbird." They touch upon everything from politics and writing to religion and dating. They also describe her caring for her

ailing father, Amasa Coleman (A.C) Lee, the lawyer and newspaper man who was the basis for one of literature's most famous characters, Atticus Finch.

"This correspondence from Harper Lee provides wonderful insight into her life during the critical years when she wrote what would be her only two novels," Joseph Crespino, an Emory professor and author of the upcoming "Atticus Finch: The Biography," said in a statement. "They provide a window into her life and her views during a period of tumultuous change in southern political life."

Lee died in 2016 at age 89. As Crespino writes in his

book, she both revered and rebelled against her father, whose hallowed image formed by "To Kill a Mockingbird" and Gregory Peck's performance in the 1962 film adaptation was upended by the portrait of Atticus as a stubborn reactionary in "Go Set a Watchman." Harper Lee had argued with her father about the rising civil rights movement, but remained close to him. In the mid-'50s, she even moved from New York back to Monroeville after A.C. Lee fell ill.

"Daddy is sitting beside me at the kitchen table, fully clothed, and eating his fouro'clock meal. He gets around the house with a walking stick," she writes to "Dearest H" in 1956. "While thinking of something to say to you I found myself staring at his handsome old face, and a sudden wave of panic flashed through me, which I think was an echo of the fear and desolation that filled me when he was nearly dead. It has been years since I have lived with him on a day-to-day basis, and these months with him have strengthened my attachment to him, if such is possible. If he gets along every day like he has this day, it won't be long before I'll be back with you."

Steven Bochco, creator of 'Hill Street Blues,' dies at 74

LOS ANGELES (AP)— lapping, scripted dialogue, Steven Bochco, a writer and shot in a documentary style. Then he got a big break: writing the screenplay for

But what really set the show apart were the multiple narratives that interlaced each episode with those that came before and after. With the rare exception of the few primetime soaps, almost every series up to that time - whether comedy or drama—made each episode freestanding, with a reset button for the one that came next.

Bochco once recalled a fan telling him that "Hill Street Blues" was the first TV series with a memory.

"That's what I always thought of myself doing in the context of TV: craft a show that over time would have a memory," he told The Associated Press in an interview two years ago. "I sensed that very early in my career. It just took me another 10 or 12 years to get to the point where I earned the right to take a shot at it."

Bochco grew up in Manhattan, the son of a painter and a concert violinist. On arriving in Los Angeles after college, he wrote for several series at Universal Studios. Then he got a big break: writing the screenplay for the 1972 sci-fi film "Silent Running." But Bochco said the disrespect he confronted as the writer soured him on writing for the big screen.

"Once you've delivered the screenplay they don't want you around, because you're gonna get in the way of someone else's vision," Bochco said.

In his self-published memoir "Truth Is a Total Defense: My Fifty Years in Television," Bochco tells the story of his prolific career, which he began at 22 as a story editor on a popular NBC drama, "The Name of the Game," all the way to "Murder in the First," which ran on TNT from 2014 to 2016.

In his book, Bochco recalls his great collaborations and his battles with actors, studio heads and network execs, along with the flops ("Bay City Blues"! "Cop Rock"!) that made the triumphs even sweeter.

Details of a memorial service were not immediately released.

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Steven Bochco, a writer and producer known for creating the groundbreaking police drama "Hill Street Blues," died Sunday. He was 74. A family spokesman says Bochco died in his sleep after a

battle with cancer.

Bochco, who won 10 primetime Emmys, created several hit television shows including "L.A. Law," "NYPD Blue," and "Doogie Howser, M.D."

Premiering in January 1981, "Hill Street Blues" challenged, even confounded the meager audience that sampled it. Then, on a wave of critical acclaim, the series began to click with viewers, while scoring a history-making 27 Emmy nominations its first year.

During its seven-season run, it won 26 Emmys and launched Bochco on a course that led to dozens of series and earned him four Peabody awards, in addition to the 10 Emmys.

"Hill Street Blues" had a sprawling universe of engaging yet flawed characters, a zippy pace and layers of over-

Cynthia Nixon to voters: 'I'm so much more than an actor'

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—"Sex and the City" star Cynthia Nixon says she has a simple response to voters who question whether she has the experience necessary to run for governor of New York.

"You know me as an actor," she told The Associated Press in an interview this past week. "But I'm so much more than an actor."

So far in her fledgling Democratic primary campaign against two-term incumbent Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Nixon has set out to prove just that. She has relentlessly attacked Cuomo as a political bully who has been unable to fix state government corruption, inequalities in education and New York City's beleaguered subways. She's also questioned Cuomo's economic development programs and criticized the newly approved state budget as another product of Albany's backroom deals.

"Cuomo has been in office eight years. Hardly anything has changed," Nixon said. "If we want change, people like me, who have never run for office before, have to get involved."

But Nixon acknowledges her from-the-left challenge to Cuomo will be an uphill fight. Cuomo, the son of the late Gov. Mario Cuomo, is a career politician and possible 2020 presidential contender with a war chest of more than \$30 million. A Siena College poll released just as Nixon formally kicked off her campaign two weeks ago showed Cuomo leading her 66 percent to 19 percent among registered Democrats.

Cuomo also beat out Nixon in a survey released last week by Quinnipiac University that asked New York City voters which candidate would be a better governor for the city. Fifty-eight percent picked Cuo-



mo; 22 percent chose Nixon.

"I wouldn't say I'm daunted necessarily," she said of the race. "It's a real challenge and I don't try to minimize that in my own mind."

Nixon's run so far seems aimed primarily at liberals who have long viewed Cuomo as too moderate. Four years ago, Cuomo faced a surprisingly tough primary challenge from liberal law professor Zephyr Teachout. This time, he'll be up against an opponent with a much more recognizable name.

The 51-year-old New York native and Grammy, Emmy In this March 20, 2018 file photo, New York candidate for governor Cynthia Nixon speaks during her first campaign stop after announcing she would challenge New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo for the Democratic nomination, at a church in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

and Tony winner - best known for her portrayal of lawyer Miranda Hobbes on "Sex and the City" - has never held elected office. But she is a longtime political activist who has lobbied for better education funding, marriage equality and women's rights, and she has campaigned for such politicians as President Barack Obama and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. If elected, the mother of three would be the state's first openly gay governor.

Nixon said she had been asked about running for office before but always said nountil the election of Republican President Donald Trump convinced her that she had to do more. She cites Eleanor Roosevelt as a political hero.

"The thing about Eleanor is that she worked so hard and so long to address inequality," she said. "I'm very inspired by her. I think of her as such a brave person."

For his part, Cuomo has pointed to achievements including legalizing gay marriage, tightening gun restrictions, raising the minimum wage, banning fracking and increasing investments in education—all while working to lower taxes and jumpstart the upstate economy. Following Nixon's entry in the race last month, Cuomo's campaign released a statement saying "It's great that we live in a democracy where anyone can run for office."

Cosby jury being picked amid anti-sexual misconduct movement

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Jury selection is set to get underway in Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial in a cultural landscape changed by the #MeToo movement, posing new challenges for both the defense and the prosecution.

Experts say the movement could cut both ways for the comedian, making some potential jurors more hostile toward him and others more likely to think men are being unfairly accused. "We really have had this ex-

plosion of awareness since that last trial and it has changed the entire environment," said Richard Gabriel, a jury consultant who has worked on over 1,000 trials. "It is a huge challenge for the defense, but it could also provide an avenue and open up the topic."

The process of picking 12 jurors was to begin on Monday in suburban Philadelphia.

A jury deadlocked last June at the former TV star's first trial after Cosby's lawyers managed to sow enough doubt in the minds of a few jurors. That was before the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct started toppling famous men in rapid succession, among them Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer, Kevin Spacey and Democratic U.S. Sen. Al Franken.

Veteran lawyers and jury consultants say #MeToo will make jury selection more complex and raise the stakes even higher.

The defense is likely to use attitudes toward the movement to weed out jurors.



Bill Cosby, center, arrives for a pretrial hearing in his sexual assault case, Friday, March 30, 2018, at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

"There may be a juror who says, 'I don't have an opinion about Cosby, but the #MeToo is very important to me," said Melissa M. Gomez, a

jury expert and author of the book "Jury Trials Outside In." "That person is still very dangerous to the defense."

Cosby, 80, is charged with

drugging and molesting Andrea Constand, a former Temple University athletics administrator, at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

Last year, after more than 52 hours of jury deliberations over six days, the judge declared a mistrial. One juror said the panel was split 10-2 in favor of conviction, while another said the group of seven men and five women was more evenly divided.

A juror who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity said he was suspicious of Constand's story, questioning why she waited to tell authorities about the alleged assault and suggesting the clothing she wore to Cosby's house had influenced his view of their encounter.

Boyfriend's chronic conditions prompt partner to weigh options

EAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship for four years. My partner has fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis. When we met, he had just found out. He was still active, working, and we had sex regularly. Fast forward: He is now on disability, not working at all, we rarely sleep together and he never leaves the house. I love him still, but I didn't realize how hard this would be. I know he has a lot to cope with, but it's hard on me as well. I have to work, do most of the chores and beg him to go out. We are only in our mid-20s, and I'm afraid for our future. I feel like I'm already 80 vears old. I don't want to leave him, but I also don't want to live this way. Any advice would be helpful.

BAD DEAL IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR BAD DEAL: What a sad letter. You are both young, with many years ahead of you. You have a difficult decision to make. Because you feel you are not up to the challenge of taking care of a chronically ill individual, it may be time to end the relationship. If you are staying out of obligation or pity, it isn't fair to either of you.

DEAR ABBY: My mom, who is well-endowed, is in the habit of using her bra as a pocket. When we go out, she puts her wallet and change purse inside her left cup and then wears a tight-fitting jersey or tank top. The outline of what she is storing is noticeable. My friends and my sisters have

noticed it and ask why she doesn't use a purse like others do. She also sticks her change purse inside her bikini top at the beach, pool or at a relative's cookout.

Mom says it's a convenient and safe place for her money and valuables. On a bus trip, she also stored a camera in there. It drew a few puzzled stares from other travelers. What do you think of this?

NOT IN THERE, PLEASE

DEAR NOT: I have it on good authority that your mother is not the only woman who uses her bra as person makes me crazy. a pocket or filing cabinet. If it works for her, and she doesn't mind people asking her why she does it, stop judging her for doing something harmless that seems efficient for her.

DEAR ABBY: Fifteen years ago my sister-in-law and I had a mutual friend, "Barbie," who told me something unflattering about my sister-in-law. My relationship with my sister-in-law has been fractured ever since. I have since severed my relations with this "friend" for numerous other reasons, but Barbie is still good friends with my sister-in-law.

Recently, I have felt that I should let my sister-in-law know how this woman betrayed her friendship by telling me her secret. Should I tell my sister-in-law or leave it alone and let her find out for herself? Seeing her buddy up to this

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



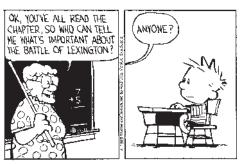
GOING NUTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR GOING NUTS: If a friend of mine leaked personal information about me, I would want to know, wouldn't you? Your sister-in-law is friendly with Barbie because she doesn't know she can't be trusted. Rather than tell your sister-in-law what you were told, approach it this way: "Is it true that ...?" And when she asks where you got such an idea, THEN tell her it's what Barbie told vou.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.) **22** TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes







By Bill Waterson

Garfield_®







By Jim Davis

Adam@home



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



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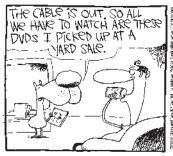
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By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD

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STUMPED?

or answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cobie Smulders, 36; Adam Scott, 45; Eddie Murphy, 57; Alec Baldwin, 60.

Happy Birthday: Look at all sides of every situation you face. Being thorough is the best way to avoid misunderstandings or mishaps. Know what you want and look for ways to achieve your goals. Taking care of business personally will ensure wise choices, as well as your success, and give you the wherewithal to continue your quest to improve your life. Your numbers are 10, 19, 21, 26, 32, 38, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Anger will sprout quickly if things don't go your way. Before you give in to lashing out and speaking your mind, consider the consequences. Don't take on a battle that will end in loss and regret instead of a solution.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An opportunity is heading in your direction. Partnerships will mark the beginning of something new and interesting. Your pursuits will improve your outlook and leave you with a better understanding of how to use your knowledge and skills more effectively.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An unusual opportunity should be looked at carefully before you decide to participate. Not everything will be as clear as someone suggests. Soulsearching will be required if you want to avoid trouble. Don't make promises you cannot keep. •••

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look over contracts or financial statements and make adjustments. Negotiate on your own behalf and you'll discover you are more apt to get what you

want. An interesting proposal that allows you to do something you enjoy looks promising.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll tend to take on too much emotionally, physically and financially. Ouestion any expenditure and look for ways to minimize your costs. Concentrate on your health, diet and exercise. Eliminate poor habits and stop hanging out with people who are unpredictable. ••

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You've got all the right moves when it comes to interacting with others and dealing with children, elders, peers or your lover, but when it comes to handling your finances or joint money matters, setbacks can be expected. OOOO

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A rare opportunity will open up through a past acquaintance or colleague. Consider the pros and cons and figure out the best way to let people close to you know your decision. Don't expect unanimous approval. Offer incentives to ease negativity. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Catch up

on correspondence. Address emails and messages that can change your schedule. Once you know where you stand and what needs to be done, you'll be in a better position to make personal plans. Added discipline will encourage a healthier lifestyle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's best to be secretive about your plans until you have worked out all the details. Trying to present something too soon will cause resistance from the very people you need to support you. Pay

close attention to cost and presentation.

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for alternative moneymaking options. Start

depends on your ability to follow through. ���� AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Protect your health, and think twice before you indulge in something that can have negative side effects. Keep your private life a secret. Offering too much personal information will result in giving someone a chance to take

community that is greatly needed and geared toward

helping others. Think big, but be reasonable. Success

a small business or offer a service in your

advantage of you. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be given an opportunity to get involved in something that looks lucrative. Go over the fine print and change any clauses that don't favor your objective. Your time and diligence will ensure you come out on top.

Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted, tough and outspoken. You are perceptive and private.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

OUELLET

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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Yesterday's Answer

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order on the at www.WoncerWordBooks.com.

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each latter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

Wonderword

FIRE UP THE BACKYARD BBO! Solution: 6 letter

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© 2018 Andrews McMeel Syndidation — www.wonderword.com											4/3			

Apron. Bake, Bark, Brine, Briquettes, Broil, Brush, Bucket, Burner, Caddie, Chimney, Chips, Electricity, Gauge, Griddle, Heat, Hot Plate. Ignitor, Indicator, Indirect, Kettle. Knobs, Lighter, Marinade, Outdoor, Pellets, Portable, Power, Propane, Rack, Roast, Rubs, Sauce, Steak, Stones, Succulent, Temperature, Thermometer, Tongs, Wire, Wood Yesterday's Answer: Gymnastics

Apron, Bake, Bark, Brine, Briquettes, Broil, Brush, Bucket

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 23



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BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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Smoak's 2 HR, go-ahead slam lift Jays past Yanks



TORONTO (AP)—After fouling

a pair of curveballs, Justin Smoak figured he'd get a fastball from David Robertson.

Smoak was right.

The switch-hitter smacked a two-run homer in the seventh inning and a go-ahead grand slam in the eighth to rally the Toronto Blue Jays past the New York Yankees 7-4 on Sunday.

Smoak connected against reliever Tommy Kahnle in the seventh, then brought the crowd of 29,091 to its feet with his second career slam, a drive off Robertson (0-1).

"He's one of the best in the game so you know it's going to be a tough at-bat," Smoak said of his nine-pitch encounter with Robertson. "I just tried to battle and battle and battle."

Smoak went 3 for 4 with a walk and six RBI in his seventh career multihomer game as Toronto gained a series split, winning the final two games.

"You can't do any better than he did today," manager John Gibbons said.

Angels 7, Athletics 4

In Oakland, Shohei Ohtani won his major league pitching debut, throwing three-hit ball over six innings and leading the Los Angeles Angels past the Oakland Athletics.

The two-way star from Japan took the mound three days after he was the designated hitter in the opener. Reaching the upper-90s (mph) with his fastball and showing a nifty splitter, Ohtani struck out six and retired 14 of his final 15 batters.

Ohtani didn't hit while pitching. Albert Pujols was the DH and went 0 for 5.

Ohtani (1-0) pounded his glove following a 1-2-3 shutdown fifth. He walked one, and the only damage against him came on Matt Chapman's three-run homer in the second.

Astros 8, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Gerrit Cole struck out 11 over seven innings in his Houston debut, and the defending champion Astros finished a solid opening weekend with a victory over Texas.

The hard-throwing righthander, acquired in an offseason trade after he was the opening day starter for Pittsburgh last year, allowed two hits to help the Astros take three of four from their state rivals.

Nationals 6, Reds 5

In Cincinnati, Bryce Harper hit two home runs, leadoff man Adam Eaton capped his big opening series with a tworun drive and Washington beat Cincinnati for a three-game



sweep under new manager Dave Martinez.

The Nationals are 3-0 for the fourth time in their history. They last swept an opening series in 2014.

Eaton returned from a knee injury that wiped out most of

his 2017 season and figured prominently in all three victories, going 8 for 13 with two doubles, two homers, five RBIs and six runs.

Mariners 5, Indians 4

In Seattle, Dee Gordon and

Mitch Haniger homered, Mike Leake pitched seven strong innings and Seattle topped Cleveland.

Edwin Encarnacion went deep twice for the Indians, his 29th career multihomer game.

Gordon and Haniger con-

nected in the seventh, when the Mariners broke a 2-all tie on the way to winning the series.

Twins 7, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Jose Berrios pitched a three-hitter for his first career complete game,

Toronto Blue Jays' Smoak, right, is greeted at home plate by teammates Aledmvs Diaz and Russell Martin after he hit a grand slam against the New York Yankees during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Toronto on Sunday, April 1, 2018.

and Minnesota got two home runs from Brian Dozier in a rout of Baltimore.

Only one batter reached against Berrios over the first eight innings-No. 9 hitter Chance Sisco, whose thirdinning double whisked by the raised glove of left fielder Eddie Rosario at the wall.

Cardinals 5, Mets 1

In New York, Paul DeJong had the first multihomer game of his big league career, Luke Weaver held the Mets to one run in five innings and St. Louis avoided an opening three-game sweep.

DeJong went deep in the second inning, making him 3 for 3 with two homers in his career against Steven Matz (0-1). DeJong hit his second solo homer in the eighth against Jacob Rhame.

Red Sox 2, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Hector Velazquez continued a seasonopening stretch of strong starting pitching by Boston, working into the sixth inning.

The first four Red starters—Chris Sale, vid Price, Rick Porcello and Velazquez—combined give up two runs over 24 innings. The defending AL East champions won three of four at Tropicana Field under new manager Alex Cora.

Marlins 6, Cubs 0

In Miami, Dillon Peters threw six scoreless innings, Brian Anderson hit a three-run double to highlight a five-run fifth and Miami split its opening fourgame series with Chicago.

Peters (1-0) helped a wellworked bullpen out in a big way, rarely getting himself into any trouble. He threw 89 pitches, 56 for strikes, striking out two and walking only one.

Pirates 1, Tigers 0, 1st Game Pirates 8, Tigers 6, 2nd Game

In Detroit, Josh Harrison, Starling Marte and David Freese homered as Pittsburgh completed a doubleheader sweep of Detroit.

The Pirates won the opener behind six no-hit innings from Trevor Williams (1-0), then took control of the second game with five runs in the fifth off Buck Farmer (0-1)

Pittsburgh swept the threegame, season-opening series against the rebuilding Tigers.

McIlroy knows he must earn Masters glory

(AP)—Rory McIlroy is determined to complete a career Grand Slam at the Masters, but does not believe he is more deserving of winning the year's first major than anyone else.

Having ended a lengthy win drought with a stunning victory at the Arnold Palmer Invitational two weeks ago, McIlroy will be high on confidence when he tees it up at Augusta National next Thursday.

Seven years have passed since McIlroy famously held a four-shot lead ahead of the final round of the Masters, only to shoot 80 on Sunday and finish in a tie for 15th.

However, the 28-year-old said: "No one is owed anything, due anything. It's not my turn. I don't believe in that stuff.

"My dad always used to

say to me: 'If it's for you, it won't go past you', and I hate that line because that's not how it works. You have to go and do it yourself.

"It doesn't just magically fall into your MASTERS I feel like I learned a lap. I'm not due anything, I don't deserve anything, everyone starts on an even playing field on Thursday morning. Whoever plays the best will win."

Reflecting on his recent visits to Augusta, McIlroy added: "I've had four top-10s but never really contended. I'd rather have been back in the box seat and seen what happened because to get in contention you have to be playing well. You can't fake it there.

"The closest was when I played in the last group on the third day with Jordan [Spieth] in 2016 [and finished tied-10th], that didn't go as planned.

"I'd love again to put my-

self in a position like that after two days because lot that day, I took on shots that I shouldn't have. Even just to get myself into that posi-

tion, I feel like I'd handle that a lot better. Any time you don't do something right is a learning opportunity and more than anywhere else in the world that we play, I feel like I have learned a lot of lessons at Augusta."

McIlroy insists he is not weighed down by a fear of never winning the Masters, highlighting the fact Phil Mickelson won the tournament at the 12th attempt following a series of nearmisses.

"I'll get a lot of opportunities at this; we have been watching the Winter Olympics where people have waited four, eight years. I at least get to do it once a year," he added.

"It took Phil Mickelson how many tries until he got over the line in 2004? Now he has three green jackets. The more you play it, the more you get comfortable, not just on the course but as soon as you get inside the gates. People would think it's on my mind all the time. Listen, I'd love the green jacket in the closet, to go back every year and use the champions' locker room, to host dinner as the champion. Nobody could ever take that away from you. But I think about the Masters the week before I play it, because

that's when I prepare for it."

Notre Dame wins thrilling finale vs Mississippi

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)— Arike Ogunbowale hit the shot of her life -- again.

Ogunbowale floated in a 3-pointer from the corner with 0.1 seconds left, lifting Notre Dame to its second women's basketball title with

a thrilling 61-58 comeback victory over Mississippi State in the NCAA championship game on Sunday night.

It was the second straight game that the junior guard hit a shot in the final second to carry the Irish. Her jumper with one second remaining in overtime knocked off previously unbeaten UConn in the semifinals Friday.

With this game tied, Ogunbowale took the inbounds pass from Jackie Young, dribbled twice toward the corner and, closely guarded, lofted home an off-balance 3 from in front of the Notre Dame bench, nearly the same angle as her shot that beat the Huskies.

"It just felt right," said Ogunbowale, who scored 16 of her 18 points in the second half. "I practice late-game all the time. I just ran to Jackie and said, 'Throw it to me, throw it to me."

Ogunbowale earned most outstanding player honors for the tournament and also received a congratulatory tweet from Kobe Bryant, who took in the semifinal win over UConn.

All the Irish players could celebrate after pulling off the biggest comeback in title game history. They rallied

from a 15-point deficit in the third quarter and were down five in the final 1:58. Marina Mabrey hit a 3-pointer from the wing and Young had a shot in the lane to tie it.

The title came 17 years to the day after Notre Dame (35-3)

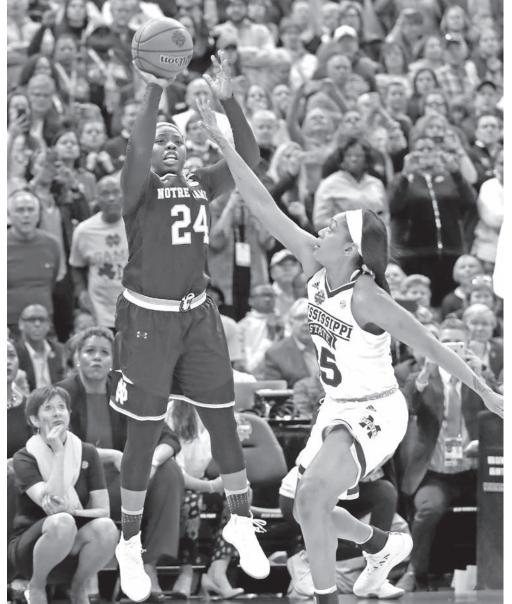
won its only other championship in 2001 on Easter.

"It's Easter Sunday, and all the Catholics were praying for us," said coach Muffet Mc-Graw, who was wearing floral shoes in honor of the holiday.

When the final buzzer sounded, a wild celebration started with the Irish faithful who were part of the sellout crowd. Mc-Graw's team had fallen short four times in seven years in the title game, losing in 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015. Many of the Notre Dame alums who were on teams that had fallen just short of winning a title were there to enjoy it, including Natalie Achonwa, Natalie Novosel and Becca Bruszewki.

This version of McGraw's squad refused to lose, and the run was even more improbable because the Irish lost four players over the season to ACL injuries.

Tied as the clock ran down, Mississippi State star Teaira McCowan missed a layup with 27.8 seconds left, and both teams turned the ball over in a wild sequence. Mc-Cowan fouled out of the game stopping an Irish fast break after consecutive turnovers and



that set up the final 3 seconds.

After Ogunbowale's clutch shot, the officials huddled and put one-tenth of a second on room, while Notre Dame

the clock. A couple of Mississippi State players had already headed for the locker

players celebrated.

The court was cleared, and Mississippi State tossed a futile inbounds pass into the lane Notre Dame's Arike Ogunbowale sinks a 3-point basket over Mississippi State's Victoria Vivians, right, to defeat Mississippi State, 61-58, in the finals of the women's NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament, Sunday, April 1, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio.

as the buzzer sounded.

"It hurts right now," Bulldogs coach Vic Schaefer said. "They played their hearts out."

It was the second year in a row that Mississippi State (37-2) fell short in the title game. It lost to South Carolina last year after ending UConn's record 111-game winning streak.

For the fourth straight NCAA game, the Irish found themselves trailing at the half. They were down 40-25 early in the third quarter before finally getting on track offensively. The Irish closed the period with a 16-1 run to tie the game at 41 heading to the final quarter.

The Irish were buoyed by severe foul trouble by Mississippi State that saw all five of its starters with three fouls in the third quarter.

It didn't look good for the Irish in the first half. After getting out to a 12-6 lead with 3:41 left in the opening quarter, Mississippi State outscored Notre Dame 24-5 the remainder of the half. The Irish went just over 8 minutes without a point, missing seven shots and committing five turnovers during the game-changing run.

(AP)—The celebra-

lief more than excitement.

First goal accomplished. Now Portland heads out on the road with more work to do.

'We're just looking to stay sharp, keep doing the things that's allowed us to have the success that we've had and try to finish it off and win the division, get home court," Damian Lillard said.

Lillard had 27 points and nine assists, and the Trail Blazers held off a late run by the Memphis Grizzlies for a 113-98 victory on Sunday night.

The Trail Blazers clinched their fifth straight playoff spot earlier in the evening when Utah won at Minnesota.

"I told the team, one thing I like about Major League Baseball is when they clinch something, they celebrate. Unfortunately, we don't do that as much as we probably should," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "Clinching the playoffs, being in the playoffs five straight years is a good accomplishment, is one of our goals at the beginning of the

PORTLAND, Ore.

Blazers clinch playoff spot, beat Grizzlies tion in the Trail Blazers' locker room after season. We still have some making the playoffs more goals to accomplish, for the fifth straight but it's something everybody season was one of reshould be proud of."

Spurs 100, Rockets 83

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 23 points and 14 rebounds and Rudy Gay added 21 points as the Spurs held Houston to its lowest-scoring game of the season, beating the Rockets.

The Spurs remained fourth in the Western Conference after preventing a season sweep by the Rockets. Houston owns the NBA's best record.

San Antonio outscored Houston 19-8 to open the fourth quarter in taking a 94-74 lead with 5 minutes remaining. Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni opted to take his starters out two minutes later.

The Rockets were without injured Chris Paul and the Spurs were without Kawhi Leonard, who has played in only nine games this season.

Cavaliers 98, **Mavericks 87**

In Cleveland, LeBron James struggled before extending his record double-digit scoring streak to 868 games and Cleveland had a rough time with Dallas before putting away the lottery-bound Mavericks.

James, who broke Michael Jordan's NBA mark for consecutive games with at least 10 points on Friday night, didn't reach 10 until 7:59 remained. He finished just 5 of 21 from the field but made a pair of 3-pointers as the Cavs finally pulled away with a 15-2 run in the fourth quarter.

James had 16 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists, his 17th triple-double this season and No. 72 of his career.

Thunder 109, Pelicans 104

In New Orleans, Russell Westbrook had a triple-double to lead Oklahoma City.

Westbrook finished with 26 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists. Paul George scored Oklahoma City's first 11 points in the second quarter and finished with 27. Carmelo Anthony added 16 and Steven Adams had 14.

The Pelicans got within 104-99 with 1:57 left, but Westbrook scored on a layup, and after a basket by Anthony Davis, George made a 3-pointer.

76ers 119, Hornets 102

In Charlotte, Ben Simmons had 20 points and 15 assists as Philadelphia kept up its passing prowess to beat Charlotte.

The Sixers set a team record with its ninth straight game of 30 or more assists — they had 36 on their 48 baskets.

Former Hornet Marco Belinelli scored 22 points off the bench and J.J. Redick had 20. Robert Covington added 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Pistons 108, Nets 96

In New York, Reggie Jackson scored 29 points, Stanley Johnson had 17 and Detroit preserved its slim playoff hopes with a victory over Brooklyn.

Detroit, playing its third straight game without injured All-Star forward Blake Griffin, avoided elimination from postseason contention for at least one game.

Pacers 111, Clippers 104

In Los Angeles, Victor Oladipo scored 30 points, Myles Turner added 24 and Indiana rallied for its fifth straight victory.

Oladipo shot 11 of 17 from the field and had 12 assists for the playoff-bound Pacers, who have won four in a row over the Clippers.

Neither team led by more than seven points in the fourth quarter, when the Pacers scored on nearly every possession over the last five minutes.

Jazz 121, **Timberwolves 97**

In Minneapolis, Ricky Rubio scored 23 points, including a season-high 5-for-6 shooting on 3-pointers, and Donovan Mitchell added 21 points for Utah.

Dante Exum had 14 points and Jonas Jerebko scored 13 points to help Utah climb a half-game ahead of Minnesota for sixth in the Western Conference. The loss kept the Timberwolves one game ahead of New Orleans, which lost at home to Oklahoma City.

The Jazz shot a season-high 60.5 percent from the field and got 50 points from their reserves.

Bulls 113, Wizards 94

In Chicago, rookie Lauri Markkanen scored 23 points and connected on 5 of 8 3-pointers to lead Chicago.

Bobby Portis had 18 points and hit 4 of 5 from long range,

and Sean Kilpatrick added 14 points. Chicago shot 52.4 percent overall from the floor and was 18 for 34 on 3s —matching its season high—as Bulls head coach Fred Hoiberg missed the game with an upper-respiratory infection.

Hawks 94, Magic 88

In Atlanta, Tyler Dorsey scored 19 points, including back-to-back baskets after Orlando trimmed Atlanta's lead to five points late in a matchup of the Eastern Conference's worst records.

Dewayne Dedmon had 17 points and 10 rebounds and rookie John Collins added another double-double for Atlanta with 10 points and 11 rebounds. The Hawks snapped a five-game losing streak.

Kings 84, Lakers 83

In Los Angeles, after a big first half, Buddy Hield struggled to score after the break. However, his persistence paid off in the end.

Hield scored 17 of his 19 points in the first two quarters, and then had a key steal and tiebreaking fast-break dunk with 37 seconds left to help the Sacramento Kings snap a four-game skid with a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

All Schools track and field qualifiers pushed back

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Athletics has moved the schedule of qualifying events for the 2018 McDonald's/PSS All Schools Track

and Field Championships to give participants more time to prepare for the competition.

NMA officials Northern Marianas Athletics decided to push

back the start of the qualifiers to next week since classes had only resumed yesterday after the spring break. The qualifiers for elementary students were originally scheduled to start tomorrow, April 4, at 4pm at the Oleai Sports Complex and should have run up to Friday, while April 9 to 13 are set for middle and high school students. With the changes, the new schedule of the qualifiers would be from April 9 to 11 and April 16 to 18 for elementary and middle schools, and April 12 and 19 for high schools also at the track oval at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Public School System athletics program director Nick Gross is helping the NMA disseminate information about the new schedule of qualifiers, which will determine the participants in the 2018 McDonald's/PSS

Dave Cruz at 170 and 145

Guam Muay Thai's Eric

"Young ASAP" Lacambra fac-

es C.J. Hofschneider of Team

No Team in a 135-lb kick-

boxing match, while female

warriors Maegan Smith and

Jessme Jones clash to begin the

Ken Evans-Sitchiru Langu,

Corey San Nicolas-Chico Qui-

dachay, John Mendiola-Angel

Oliveras, Manny "The Kid"

Camacho-Don "Don Won"

Lujan; Austin John King-An-

dres "The Tanapag Beach Bad

Boy" Camacho, L.D. Ogo-

featured 14 MMA card.

KOREANS

From Page 28

lbs, respectively.

All Schools Track and Field Championships set from May 9 to 12.

NMA official Elias Rangamar has scheduled the coaches' organizational meeting on Thursday, April 5, at 4pm at

> the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to discuss the changes and other concerns by each school representative.

Rangamar has also advised the coaches

of Tinian and Rota schools to email their concerns so he could share them to the group since they won't be able to attend the Thursday meeting.

"Just email me your concerns, Tinian and Rota. I shall share and address them in the meeting. I will then email you the minutes of the meeting along with the responses to your concerns," said Rangamar.

The qualifying meet is for high jump, long jump, discus, javelin throw, shot put, and softball throw in the field events, and in the 60m, 100m, 200m, and 400m runs.

Elementary school students (Under 7, U9, and U11) will start their qualifying on April 9 and 10 for the 60m, 100m, and 200m runs, and long jump, while April 16 and 17 are reserved for the 400m, 800m, and 1500m runs, and softball throw.

Napu "Fong Fung" Reyes, Greg "Peskadude" Sasamoto-Wildon "The Beast" Camacho, J-Boy Langu-Kimo Adriano, and Austin "Auzzy Pete" Petrus-Mark "The Dark" Nuique are the other featured MMA

Steel Athletics' Jeff Mesa is among the eight standby fighters with his opponent for a 155-lb bout yet to be announced. Roland Meno, Josh Muna, Austin Gaspay, Kyle Gumataotao, Vince Campos, Josh Revoy, and Ethan Mariur are the others warriors waiting to be called out at the octagon later this month. All fights are subject to change.



Track and Field Championships at the Hopwood Middle School Field

Middle school students will have their qualifying dates on April 11 (60m, 100m 200m, javelin throw, and long jump) and April 17 (400m, 800m, 1500m, and 3000m runs, and discus throw, shot put, and high jump).

April 12 (60m, 100m, and

200m runs, and javelin throw, and long jump) and April 19 (400m, 800m, 1500m, and 3000m runs, and discus throw, shot put, and high jump) are for high school students or those in the U15 and U18 age group.

Schools are allowed to have as many as three students in each of the events lined up, while there is no limit on the number of entries per school in the middle (800m and 1500m) and long distance (3000m) runs. All schools also automatically qualify for the relay events.

Green Meadows School, Northern Marianas International School, and the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School are the new schools that will join Saipan Community School, Gregorio T. Camacho, William S. Reyes, Agape Christian School. Grace Christian Academy, Oleai, Kagman, Koblerville, Saipan International School, San Vicente, Garapan, Mt. Carme School, Tinian, and Sinapalo in the elementary division.

Chacha, SCS, MBA, SIS, ACS, Francisco M. Sablan, Hopwood, Dandan, Tanapag, GCA, SDA, NMIS, and MCS are entered in the middle school and junior high school divisions, while the high school championship will be contested by Marianas, Kagman, Saipan Southern, ACS, MBA, SIS, MCS, and GCA.

Sports fundraiser set next month

By JON PEREZ

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation is inviting all local sports associations to join them in the 1st Sports Fundraiser, a one-day fundraising event on May 5 at the Roundhouse in Garapan Central Park.

Sports federations will be given their spot and can have their own gimmick to attract potential donors and sponsors and help them in their fundraising efforts. The event will from from 8am to 2pm. The cost of the space is \$20 and would go to the CNMI weightlifting team.

CWF secretary Jeanne Rayphand said the event would benefit their federation and other sports associations.

"We invite other sports federations to participate, in order to raise funds for their group. The plan is to have athletes and other officials participating to raise funds for their particular sports federation,"

Rayphand told Saipan Tribune in a telephone interview.

"In a way, CWF would be raising funds while also helping other federations raise money for themselves. Any other profit or income they earn in their space would belong to them. CWF won't have any part of it."

The fundraiser wanted to focus on gifts for Mother's Day, but won't be limited for the said occasion. Local artists are also invited to participate.

Rayphand also advised

sports federations that would participate to inform them in advance if they would need a table or if they would provide one for their own space.

"We expect to finalize posters and advertisement by Friday. So we request registrations and payment on or before Thursday, April 5," added Rayphand.

Payment can be turned in to Rayphand at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. office in Gualo Rai.

For more information, call or email Rayphand at 2879807 or at jeannesq@yahoo.com.

MPU

From Page 28

The club, which is one of the four founding members of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, has won 38 championships to date and has produced the most number of men's, women's and youth members of the CNMI national teams in the last 10 vears. It has competed in several off-island tournaments, brought in guest coaches, players, and teams, and participated in community outreach programs.

"We can say that MP United

is the model club in CNMI football," said NMIFA president Jerry Tan, who was the guest speaker at the weekend event.

"MP United has done a lot of wonderful things for our program. The club has been working with NMIFA since Day 1. I remember during our early days, it was very difficult to introduce the sport here. We have to go to school, talk to the students, the teachers, and the parents and asked them to try kicking the ball, because it's fun. The rest is history, as MP United and other pioneering clubs continue to encourage our youth to play the sport and be active," Tan added.

MP United's success and the continued development of its players, coaches, and officials would not be possible without the tireless support of its sponsors, led by IT&E. The telecommunication company and MP United's other backers were presented with plaques of appreciation during the anniversary celebration.

MP United also acknowledged Vivid Blue, it's sister club from Japan, for the partnership and friendship. The visiting group's president and founder Sachiko Tahara then handed over a plaque to MP United vice president Lydia Tan as a gift for the host's anniversary. Tahara and some Vivid Blue U12 players competed in the Pacific Ocean Cup 9 held last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Meanwhile, a collection of video footages of former IT&E players and coaches was played during the celebration with the club's alumni thanking MP United for helping them discover their passion for soccer and preparing them for life after their playing years with the group.

BSI

From Page 28

lowing a 68-27 rout of the Docomo Rollers.

Shane Deleon Guerrero lifted the Saints to the 8-point win after firing 22 points, while Rich Ada and Leo Galarse contributed 18 and 14 markers, respectively.

In the women's divisions, Eleina Santos delivered 18 points to help the Ol'Aces bounce back from a defeat at the hands of the Lady Ol'Aces.

First Game

Ol'Aces 100 — Basa 18,

Pelisamen 14, Deleon Guerrero 10, Rabauliman 10, Blake 9, Schmidt 9, Siech 6, Santos 5, Sablan 5, Atan 4, Barcinas 3.

BSI 70 — Marinas 17, Atencio 13, Sanguyo 11, Ibag 8, Senario 8, Pantaleon 6, Rook 5, Sanrinian 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-19, 39-37, 75-54, 100-70.

Second Game

Fiesta Resort 73 — Kautz 14, Pagarao 13, Villagomez 11, Flores 10, Pablo 8, Espinosa 8, Alegre 6, Alferos 4.

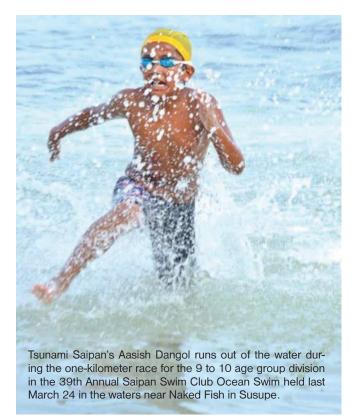
Docomo Rollers 42 — Garon 15, Lumabi 12, Pena 7, Francisco 6, Morales 2.

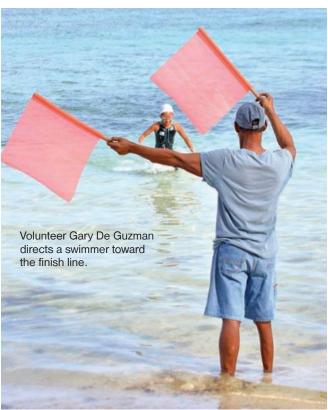
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 27

39th Annual SSC Ocean Swim

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



















Smoak's 2 HR, go-ahead slam lift **Jays past Yanks**

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Notre Dame wins thrilling finale vs Mississippi

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Streaking Ol'Aces rout BSI



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

he Ol'Aces' scoring surge continued, as they pounded BSI, 100-70, during the men's division game in 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

With another easy win, the Ol'Aces kept their perfect record (3-0) in the eightteam field, while BSI dropped to an even 1-1 slate after prevailing in its season debut against the Genesis All-Stars.

In all their three wins, the powerhouse Ol'Aces reached the century mark, as they scored 144 versus the Saints and 107 against the Genesis All-Stars.

Opposite BSI, again the Ol'Aces multiple options on offense helped the undefeated squad cruise past their oppo-

ROSELYN B. MONROYO The Ol'Aces' Coby Santos goes up for a one-hander while warming up during an earlier game in the MIBF island-wide caging last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Ol'Aces played last Wednesday before

the league took a short break

and won against BSI, 100-70.

nents. Four Ol'Aces players scored in double figures and five more chipped in at least 5 points apiece.

Despite the Ol'Aces' depth, BSI should be credited for keeping up with its foe in the first half, as the former led by only a deuce at the break, 39-37. John Atencio, Paolo Sanguyo, and Sonny Marinas teamed up in allowing BSI to shadow the Ol'Aces in the first 20 minutes of play.

However, the Ol'Aces began to assert their might in the third quarter behind the 3-point shooting of Preston Basa, who made three consecutive baskets from downtown to help his team open a 75-54 advantage. Dean Blake, Freddie Pelisamen, and Douglas Schmidt also did their share in the Ol'Aces' third-quarter breakaway.

Basa then knocked in

another triple early in the fourth quarter, while Pelisamen drilled 6 straight points to deliver the killer blows for the Ol'Aces.

Meanwhile, in the women's division game, Fiesta Resort also coasted to a 73-42 triumph over the Docomo Rollers.

Mikky Kautz paced Fiesta Resort with her 14 points, while her three other teammates also finished in twin digits with Irish Pagarao, Jen Villagomez, and Quina Flores adding 13, 11, and 10, respectively. A.J Garon led all scorers with her 15 markers.

In other results last week, the Saints recovered from their debut loss after outclassing the Chalan Kanoa Ballers, 86-78, while the Ol'Aces also regained their bearings fol-

See BSI on Page 26

Koreans to face local warriors

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Three South Ko-RITES OF PASSAGE 23 rean fighters from different gyms will be coming

to Saipan to test the mettle of three local warriors in the Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown set on April 27 at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Korean Top Team's Seung Jun Lee, Team ACE Korea's Sang Hyun Park, and Korean MMA's Song Ho Lee will each face Team Gualo Rai's Ryan "Trobz" Ngirbabul, and TrenchTech veterans Vince "The Clinch" Masga, and Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez in three of the 14 featured MMA bouts in ROP 23. Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez (6-1, 3 knockouts) will headline ROP 23 when he defends his featherweight title against Russian Andrei "The Venus Project" Zaitsev (0-3).

The Lee-Ngirbabul match is set at 205 lbs (light heavy-

weight), while Park and Masga will be featured in a featherweight clash at 145

> lbs, and Lee and Shane Alvarez's bout is set at the bantamweight

(135 lbs) class.

The three Korean mixed martial arts gyms have become regulars in several fights promoted by TrenchTech cofounder Cuki Alvarez. KTT's Sang Kwon Kim and Min Ju Lee, and Sang Hyung Park of Team ACE competed on Saipan a few years ago, while Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter Kwan Ho "Handsome" Kwak, who made his MMA debut in Trench Warz 17, also visited the island.

Meanwhile, two boxing matches will start the fight night in ROP 23 with Independent Guam's Jason Henderson and Jom Ebo taking on TrechTech's Nick Cruz and Team Zalaka's

See KOREANS on Page 26



Referee Jason Tarkong gives instructions to ACE Korea's Sang Hvun Park, left, and Mark "The Dark" Niuique before their duel in Rites of Passage 21: Throwdown last year at the Marianas Business Plaza. Park will be back on Saipan to compete in Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown later this month and will face Vince "The Clinch" Masga.

MPU celebrates 10th anniversary, basks in glory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

MP United Football Club celebrated its 10th anniversary last Sunday at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort, recalling the group's slew of achievements for a decade.

"I, together with the MPU directors, are so proud to be part of our rich history in all competitive age groups from U12 to U18 and adult. We are determined to continue our goal to develop many fine young male and female individuals into independent, fair, and respectful leaders and

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United Football Club officials thank the players, parents, and supporters of the club during the group's 10th anniversary celebration last Sunday at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

productive citizens in our global community while maintaining the highest level of integrity and team spirit," MP United president Vickie

Izuka said in her message read by vice president and technical director Norman Del Rosario. Izuka is off-island thus could not make it to the

celebration.

"It was an amazing and memorable 10 years. Toast to another exciting 10 years," Izuka added.

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